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**INDIAN ARMY DAY**

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY

**MANN RECUSES HOURS BEFORE FIRST MEETING**

SC committee cracks, key member opts out saying he is with farmers

Tomar confirms talks with farmer leaders today, with 'an open mind'

SUKHBIR SIWACH, RAAKHI JAGGA & HARIKISHAN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

TWO DAYS after the Supreme Court named him as one of the four members of an expert committee, tasked to listen to grievances of farmers opposed to the new agriculture laws and the views of the government, Bhupinder Singh Mann, president of BKU (Mann) and chairman of All India Kisan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED Adding to the confusion

THE EXIT of Bhupinder Singh Mann has put a question mark on the consultation process. It remains to be seen if the court names a new member to replace him. What also complicates the process is the outright rejection of the panel by farmer unions.

Record govt purchases of cotton, paddy from Punjab

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
JALANDHAR, JANUARY 14

RAJIVSINGH Golta sold 52 quintals of *narma/kapas* (raw unginned cotton) over three pickings from his five-acre land in Jhumba village of Punjab's Bathinda district. He got the full minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 5,665 per quintal for his medium-long staple fibre crop that was procured by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) between early-October and mid-December.

The 42-year-old is pleased

that the CCI entered the market on time at the season's start when *narma* rates were Rs 4,600-4,800/quintal. That's a view also echoed by Nirmal Singh Tiwana, a farmer from the same village who sold 21 quintals of the crop, grown on two out of his four-acre holding, to the CCI at the Centre's MSP.

And it is not just cotton. Government agencies have procured an all-time high 202.78 lakh tonnes of paddy from Punjab at the MSP of Rs 1,988/quintal for 2020-21.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NEW MONOPOLIES: OBJECTIONS WERE OVER-RULED

Finance and Niti had raised red flags before Adani's clean sweep of six airports

PRANAV MUKUL & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

BOTH THE FINANCE Ministry and Niti Aayog had put on record objections regarding the 2019 airport bidding process, which were over-ruled, clearing the way for a clean sweep of six airports by the Ahmedabad-based Adani Group, records accessed by *The Indian Express* show.

This assumes significance given that on August 31 last year, the Adani Group signed another deal to acquire a controlling interest in the country's second largest airport, in Mumbai — the Airports Authority of India cleared that takeover on January 12.

Aviation is one sector the Competition Commission of India (see interview) has marked for review of market dominance. From running a private air-strip

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Last August, Adani Group signed deal to acquire a controlling interest in country's second largest airport in Mumbai. *File*

Concentration of power in India Inc: Regulator reviews seven key sectors

Telecom to pharma, airports to ports: concession agreements to be reviewed

PRANAV MUKUL & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

AMID THE unprecedented concentration of power in at least seven core sectors in corporate India, from pharma and telecom to airports and ports, the Competition Commission of India has launched a set of detailed investigations on the market dynamics of each sector.

Simultaneously, it has started a review of all model concession agreements — the legal contract that forms the basis of the public-private partnership — across four



ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA
CHAIRPERSON, COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA

key infrastructure sectors: airports, ports, electricity and railways.

The goal is to ensure that

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Delhi survey: 10% kids out of school, 80% homes don't have computers

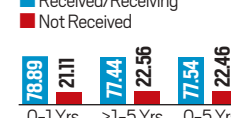
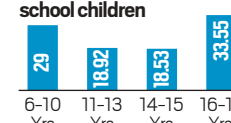
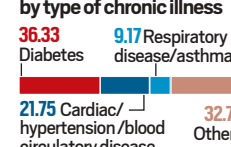
SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

■ Two lakh children remain "out of school", including 64,813 due to "financial constraints".
■ Over six lakh between 0-6 years are outside the net of anganwadis, which cover less than half of Delhi's pregnant women.
■ Over 63% people use buses for commuting, while only 6% depend on the flagship Delhi Metro.
■ As many as 42.59% households in the city spend less than Rs 10,000 per month, nearly 80% do not own computers, and 29% do not have access to tap water within households. Almost all households have toilets.
■ Nearly three-fourth of the population depends on government facilities; of the 2.60% who suffer from chronic illnesses,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

OVER 1 CR SURVEYED

All figures in %

Status of vaccination**Distribution of out-of-school children****Distribution of population by type of chronic illness**

The newly inaugurated genome sequencing laboratory at the IGI Airport in New Delhi on Thursday. *Tashi Tobgyal*

PM to launch vaccine drive, first list up

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will launch the start of the Covid-19 vaccination drive Saturday, connecting with 3,006 vaccination sites across the country via video-conferencing. The Prime Minister's Office said Modi will address the sites, where over three crore priority groups will be vaccinated over the next few months, at 10.30 am. "Around 100 beneficiaries will be vaccinated at each session site on the inaugural day,"

the government said. Senior Health Ministry officials said the beneficiary list for the first day has already been uploaded on the Co-WIN platform. "The vaccination session is from 9 am to 5 pm. Whoever comes till 5 pm will be vaccinated even after 5 pm, just like how it happens in elections," an official said. "Since the bulk registration of healthcare workers has already taken place, they need not individually register. States have been told to ensure that the session sites, including the list of vaccinators and beneficiaries, is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Special flight from Brazil for 2 million doses

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

WITH INDIA set to launch its nationwide vaccination drive against Covid Saturday, a specially equipped aircraft from Brazil is expected to land in Mumbai over the weekend to collect 2 million doses of the vaccine to mark the first such export from the country, sources told *The Indian Express*.

The move follows a request from Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro in a letter last week to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

TAKING OFF**20 months**

Time period of growth

8*

Airports controlled by Adani Group

7.90 crore

Number of passengers handled (23.2% of domestic traffic)

* Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Mangalore, Lucknow, Jaipur, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram, greenfield Navi Mumbai

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'Next Azhar' is a 26-yr-old power hitter from Kerala: 100 in 37 balls



Mohammed Azharuddeen

VISHAL MENON
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

ACRICKET-CRAZY elder brother didn't give him much of a career option by getting him to change his name from Ajmal to Mohammed Azharuddeen. Moreover, he hailed from Thalagara, that rare town in Kerala on the outskirts of Kasaragod where children prefer to hit the ball with a bat and not kick it.

But Azharuddeen knew he needed to do something special to live up to the expectations of that brother, Kamaruddeen, a "lifelong fan" of Indian batting great Mohammad Azharuddin. Thalagara, too, had high hopes from their "Next Azhar".

On Wednesday, the 26-year-old made his seven brothers, his home town and an entire state proud.

He smashed a 37-ball ton during a 54-ball 137 against Mumbai, hitting nine fours and 11 sixes in the domestic T20 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy game. It was the third-fastest T20 century by an Indian after Rishabh Pant (32

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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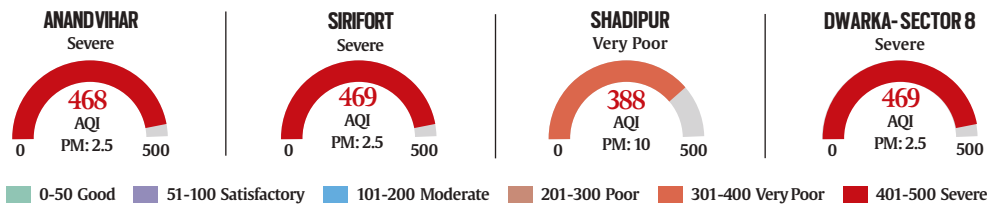
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S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: Jan 15
Partly cloudy sky.
Dense fog in the morning
MAX: 19 | **MIN: 5**
1°C below normal | 2.4°C below normal

Schools reopen in Punjab but many kids stay on at farm protest site

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

EVEN AS the Punjab government has allowed all schools in the state to reopen from classes V to XII, several children continue to be part of the farmers' protest at Singhu border in the capital. Among the children at the border is 13-year-old Jashanpreet Singh, a class VIII student from Khairpur Jatta village in Patiala district. He had arrived with his uncle Jasvinder Singh on Wednesday. Jasvinder said the family did not hesitate

to send him along despite school opening because "school abhi theek thaak se nahi khule hai". "Schools are functioning for 2-3 hours in a day, they have not opened properly... In our village, we are taking turns to come to the border. While we were at home, he was going to school. We came yesterday, and he did his online studies in the evening in the trolley. Once we go back to the village in about a week or 10 days, he will attend school again," he said. Last week, schools in Punjab reopened for classes V to VIII with optional attendance, con-

ditional to consent from parents. Earlier in October last year, schools were allowed to re-open for classes IX to XII. Harinder Singh, an elder member of Jashanpreet's village, explained why many farmers have felt that it is important to include children in the protest: "It is very important that children and the younger generation see this protest. Children will learn about it — the struggle, our interests and our culture — and will one day be able to proudly say that they were a part of it," he said. Amarinder Singh from



Punjab's Fatehgarh district has a daughter in class VII and has received a notification from her school that it will reopen on January 18. But she is currently at Singhu with her parents who have decided they will continue to remain there. "Our entire family has been a part of the protest for more than a month, and I've been the only person going back from time to time to look after work

at home. We will all continue to remain here. We care about her studies but right now, we are most worried about our livelihood. She too said she wanted to join the protest with us and it is for them that we are fighting," he said. Many older children have been an active part of the protest throughout. Nirmal Singh, a class XI student at a private school, and Arshpreet Singh, a class XII student at a government school, are part of a group of youngsters from their village in Bhatinda district who arrived at Singhu on

January 5. "My parents told me I should be in school but didn't stop me from coming to Delhi. They were part of earlier groups who came here. We're leaving tomorrow and will come back before January 26 with tractors from the village. My exams will be beginning on January 19 but I don't think I'll be writing them," said Nirmal. Arshpreet said they had been attending classes in the village and though there are online classes happening, they cannot study through the buzz of the protest.

UNION MINISTER MEETS MCD OFFICIALS

Civic bodies revoke no chicken order after Centre steps in

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

A DAY after imposing a ban on the sale and storage of "poultry, processed or packaged chicken meat", Delhi's civic bodies revoked the decision on Thursday following a meeting with Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry Giriraj Kishore Singh. After the meeting, in which mayors and commissioners of all three corporations were present, East Delhi Mayor Nirmal Jain said it was decided that the decision will be revoked. "The minister said there have been no cases of bird flu among people in Delhi for the past several years and there was no need for such a decision," said Jain. Singh in a tweet said: "A meeting was held today with the



The ban had drawn criticism. Praveen Khanna

Deputy CM of Delhi and the three chairmen of the Municipal Corporations of Delhi. Discussed bird flu and reiterated the need to follow protocol as previously advised." Sources in the civic bodies

said the central ministry was unhappy with the move. The North Delhi Municipal Corporation and South Delhi Municipal Corporation had also ordered restaurants not to serve "poultry meat, poultry products

and egg-based dishes". This decision, too, has been revoked. The East Delhi Municipal Corporation had refrained from issuing any orders to restaurants. The decision had led to criticism from several quarters with traders and restaurants saying it will affect their business — which has already been hit due to Covid — further. The corporations, in its orders issued on Wednesday, had said all meat and poultry shops and meat processing units in areas under the NDMC/SDMC/EDMC are prohibited to sell, store poultry or processed or packaged chicken meat with immediate effect, till further orders". The civic bodies had also warned that any violation would lead to revocation of the shop's licence.

BRIEFLY 58-year-old pushed from moving car after robbery

New Delhi: A 58-year-old woman sustained injuries when two men allegedly pushed her from a moving vehicle after robbing her in Northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar on Tuesday. Police said the two accused men offered to drop the woman, who was going to meet her daughter in Todapur, but allegedly snatched her bag and jewellery — gold chain, earrings and ring — after she got inside the car. They also allegedly pushed her from the vehicle before fleeing the spot. Police said no arrests have been made in the case yet. DCP (Northwest) Vijayanta Arya said a case of robbery has been registered on the complaint of the woman.

Delhi SCERT raises number of posts

New Delhi: Aimed at enabling the Delhi SCERT to perform better, the number of posts, including academic faculty posts, in it and the pay scales have been increased to bring it on par with the NCERT. **ENS**

CM directs reopening of Ghazipur poultry market as samples test negative

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

BIRD FLU has not spread among poultry birds in the capital as all 100 samples taken from the wholesale poultry market East Delhi's Ghazipur have tested negative, Delhi government officials said on Thursday. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has now issued directions to reopen the market and withdraw orders to restrict trade & import of chicken stock. "Samples taken from poultry markets have tested negative with respect to bird flu. Have directed to open the poultry market and withdraw orders to restrict trade & import of chicken stock." Results of samples taken from 35 birds at the market came on Wednesday evening, after the three municipal corporations imposed a ban on sale and storage of poultry products, including processed and packaged chicken meat. The ban was revoked on Thursday. Rakesh Singh, senior Animal Husbandry Department officer of the Delhi government, said, "Ghaziपुर is the only licensed poultry market in Delhi from where meat is taken by retailers. All 100 samples taken from here have tested negative for bird flu. Based on this, it can be said that avian influenza has not spread in poultry birds in Delhi." Singh also said there is less

‘Teachers not to be deployed for bird flu duty’
New Delhi: Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Thursday issued an order against deploying teachers on the field to perform checks against bird flu. "Teachers are not meant for this kind of duty... Moreover, for class X and XII, the government has already announced special practical classes from Monday... It is, therefore, directed that no deployment of teachers is permitted for duties related to prevention of ingress of avian influenza..." Sisodia wrote. The teachers had earlier called the Revenue Department order assigning them the duty as "harassment". **ENS**

chance of the virus spreading from other birds to poultry: "Poultry birds are taken from the market by retailers in a short duration of 2-4 hours, and more new birds come in.... Their chance of contact with other birds is less because such birds do not come into a market area where there is generally a lot of activity." However, the virus has been

confirmed in eight samples taken from other birds in the capital, including ducks from Sanjay Lake and crows from Mayur Vihar Phase III and Dwarka, Singh said. Officials said 850 bird mortalities, mostly of crows, have been reported in the city from January 6 until Thursday based on calls received on the bird flu helpline. However, officials said, not all of them can be connected to avian influenza and may also be due to cold stress. Singh said four samples taken from heron birds in Hastsal Park in West Delhi were also suspected of having bird flu, based on the results received from Jalandhar-based Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. "These four samples have been sent to a Bhopal-based laboratory for confirmation," he said, adding that a programme to prevent further spread of the virus in underway in the city, as part of which ducks at Sanjay Lake were culled. He said 11 teams of the department have been collecting samples from areas where a large number of mortalities have been reported and at least five samples were collected on Thursday for testing. It is suspected that the avian influenza virus would have spread in Delhi through ducks. Singh said, "Ducks are normally around water bodies where wild birds also come and the virus spreads this way."

FLY BY

At the Yamuna banks on Thursday, Delhi's air quality slipped into the severe category Thursday and is not expected to improve over the next three days, in what is forecast as the first "extended extreme air pollution" episode of the new year. Tashi Tobgyal

‘Freedom 251’ smartphone man held in dry fruits scam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

THE MAN behind the 'country's cheapest smartphone' scam has been arrested by Noida Police in connection with another fraud. According to police, Mohit Goel and his associate Omprakash Jangid allegedly cheated dry fruit traders and sellers to the tune of Rs 200 crore. In 2017, Goel was arrested for alleged non-payment of dues following the announcement of the 'cheapest smartphone', called Freedom, priced at Rs 251. Luv Kumar, Addl Commissioner of Police, Gautam Budh Nagar, said: "We received complaints in Noida that a company called Dubai Dry Fruits was carrying out financial fraud under



Mohit Goel has 21 cases, including for fraud, against him

the guise of trade. The accused were purchasing dry fruits and other food items from vendors at a high price and selling them at an even higher price. They would give some amount as advance and pocket the rest. We traced their company to Noida and arrested the two accused. One accused is the same person who was arrested for offering cheap mobile phones earlier." According to police, the accused had set up the company in a plush office space in Sector 62 to make it seem legitimate. They

also hired three foreigners to further fool customers into believing their operations are authentic. The accused essentially would issue bounced cheques to traders and file false cases against them if they demanded payment, police said. The accused used the company as a front for their scam and appointed dummy directors at senior positions. During investigation, police found multiple complaints against Goel in Haryana, Punjab, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, UP and Karnataka. Police recovered 60 kg of dry fruits and an Audi from the possession of the accused. He had invested Rs 10 crore in the company, police said. Goel, who hails from Rajasthan, has 21 cases including those of fraud and criminal intimidation against him.

HC forms panel headed by judge to monitor motor accident claims

SOFI AHSAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

THE DELHI High Court has constituted a special committee, to be headed by a judge of the court, to supervise the implementation of a scheme formulated by it for Motor Accident Claims. Under the scheme, the investigating officer (IO) is required to send a First Accident Report (FAR) regarding any road accident to the Claims Tribunal and insurance company within 48 hours. It has also directed Delhi Police to set up a monitoring cell in four weeks for implementation of the scheme and upload the FARs on its website. "India has a dubious distinction of having the highest num-

ber of road accidents," said Justice J R Midha in a ruling regarding motor accident compensation, adding that road safety was an important issue of national concern. In 2009, the court had formulated the Claims Tribunal Agreed Procedure for time-bound settlement of motor accident claims within 90-120 days and later directed Delhi Police to prepare an Accident Investigation Manual and implement a Detailed Accident Report (DAR) procedure on the same lines as is being done in Tamil Nadu. As per Justice Midha's order, the committee meant to supervise the scheme will be headed by a sitting or former HC judge, will have member secretary,

DSLSA, as convenor and will include a Special Commissioner of Police, an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, and Secretary General of the General Insurance Council as its members. Delhi Police and insurance companies are required to file monthly compliance reports before the committee starting from April 2021. The court has also directed the road transport ministry to consider the scheme at the time of framing of rules regarding the Accident Information Report. It has also directed Delhi Government to consider amending the Delhi Motor Accident Claims Tribunal Rules, 2008, to incorporate the scheme.

Media design to prejudice opinion, says Umar Khalid

New Delhi: Former JNU student Umar Khalid alleged before a court Thursday that there was a deliberate design by the media and a concerted effort to prejudice opinion against him in a Northeast Delhi riots case. The submissions were made before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Dinesh Kumar during the hearing on a plea moved by Khalid, in which he alleged a vicious media trial by leaking of the supplementary charge sheet filed against him even before the court took cognizance. "The adversarial media reports, painting me not only as an accused but almost as guilty, have continued. I want to point it out to you as it is causing me deep distress and clearly affecting my right to a fair trial. The fact that it is continuing even after me pointing it out to you, I see it as a deliberate design," he alleged. He further claimed that extracts from his alleged disclosure statement, which hold no value in the court of law, have been made into headlines. The judge told Khalid that he can file a separate complaint if he felt there was an alleged vendetta going on against him. Khalid also requested to go through photos and video footage filed as part of the chargesheet. The judge directed the investigating officer to submit a pen drive with the requested information to the jail superintendent. **PTI**

Masked men flee with jewellery worth crores

New Delhi: A group of seven-eight armed assailants broke into a Reliance Jewels store in Northwest Delhi and fled with gold and diamond jewellery worth crores, said police on Thursday. DCP (Northwest) Vijayanta Arya said the incident took place at the store in Maurya Enclave around 4.15 am: "The accused came in a car and threatened the security guard with pistols. They then broke the glass and shutter and went inside. We have come to know that they robbed some of the articles and fled." They allegedly took two-three bags and filled them with jewellery, and also snatched the guard's phone. After they left, the guard called the manager from a passerby's phone. Police said only one guard was on duty at night. "We are looking into all CCTVs in the area to identify the car and get more clues. Statements of the witness and staffers have been recorded," said a senior officer. **ENS**

‘IMPLEMENTATION WILL CAUSE ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER FOR STATE’

Haryana rejects draft report that sought more water for Yamuna revival

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

THE HARYANA government has rejected a draft report by the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) that recommended the state to release more water into the Yamuna to help its revival. A draft report by the institute had stated that the river stretch between Haryana's Hathnikund barrage and Delhi's Okhla needs

more water for maintaining its environmental flow (e-flow). Haryana's additional chief secretary of the environment and climate change department, in a response filed before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on January 6, said the state was releasing 10 cubic metre per second (cumec) of water for maintaining e-flow from the Hathnikund barrage. "The recommendation of NIH is nearly 300% of the existing e-flow of 10 cumecs and the state is

completely in disagreement with the recommendations... as the implementation of the above proposal shall cause environmental disaster in Haryana... It is further informed that the matter has already been taken up by the state with the Ministry of Jal Shakti... to not to accept the report of NIH in this regard," the response stated. The study by NIH was commissioned in 2018 by the Central water ministry's National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). The



Yamuna receives a large volume of domestic sewage. Archive

draft final report was discussed in June 2020 in a meeting chaired by central water minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. At present, a minimum of 10 cumec of water is released into the river from Hathnikund barrage — except in monsoon months between June and October when it is increased up to 298 cumec. The NIH study recommended that minimum flow of water be increased, from 23 cumec to 34 cumec during lean or non-monsoon months. Between June and October, the flow should be 44 cumec to 220 cumec. The recommendation is aimed at helping the river achieve its ecological functions, such as recharging ground water, supporting biodiversity and aquatic life, and providing for the needs of the population. The Yamuna receives a large volume of domestic sewage and industrial waste, and almost all freshwater present in it is diverted for various consumptive

purposes at the Hathnikund barrage, as per a report submitted by the Yamuna Monitoring Committee to the NGT in June. Opposition to the NIH e-flow study was also made during a meeting last May by Haryana's additional chief secretary of the irrigation department. He said there was an acute drinking water shortage in the state, and groundwater levels have gone very deep at 78 'over exploited' blocks out of a total 121.

In the Line of Duty!

Army Day is observed to commemorate the indomitable spirit and courage of Indian soldiers who have laid down their lives in service of the nation, and also marks the historic occasion of transfer of military power from the British to Independent India

History of Army Day

Every year, on January 15, India celebrates Army Day in memory of its valiant sons of the motherland and their triumphant achievements in service of the nation. This year, as India celebrates its 73rd Army Day, it is only apt to remember the various contributions of the Indian Army that have made it a knight in shining armour for the country. Army Day is celebrated to commemorate the occasion when the then Lieutenant General KM Cariappa took over as Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army on January 15, 1949 from General Sir Francis Butcher, the last British Commander-in-Chief of the British Indian Army. Since this was a remarkable event in Indian history, it was decided to celebrate the occasion as Army Day every year. Needless to say, Army Day marks the transfer of power from the British to Independent India.

Field Marshal KM Cariappa

Popularly known as “Kipper”, KM Cariappa was the first Indian Commander-In-Chief of the Indian Army. With a military career spanning three decades, he is one of the only two Indian Army officers to hold the five-star rank of Field Marshal, the other being the legendary Sam Manekshaw. Much before India got independent, Cariappa had seen action in Iraq, Syria, Iran, and Burma and became the first Indian Officer to be given command of a unit in 1942. His unrelenting patriotism and secular beliefs blazed a trail for the Indian Army throughout his service years. According to Global Fire Power Index 2020, India’s army is considered the world’s fourth strongest army. According to this power index, America, Russia, and China have a better army than India. India’s neighbour Pakistan is ranked 15th in this list.

Importance of Artillery to Army

In any army, not many people are aware that time and again, “artillery has proven to be the arm of decision, a battle-winning factor and will continue to be the pivotal arm in all future battles.” The



importance of artillery can be ascertained from the fact that throughout the history of warfare, “the ability to project firepower at a distance has always been one of the most important assets any commander could ask for, and over the ages, artillery has proved its mettle.”

The health of the Indian Artillery was finally restored when, in 2018, the current regime, under the leadership of PM Modi, resorted to bring change in its status quo by bringing in long-pending developments. The government’s trust and emphasis on ‘Make in India’ initiative reflects its deep commitment to make India self-reliant. The recent import embargo on 101 defence equipment is a true

measure of the government’s commitment in this regard. The idea is to trust local defence manufacturing industries, forge partnerships for knowledge transfer and try to become self-reliant in near future. Currently, all the artillery guns either under trials, procurement or development are under the ‘Make in India’ or ‘Made in India’ category.

Moreover, the firepower of artillery comes from ammunition. Today, the DP-SUs and the private sector are being encouraged to enhance ammunition production capability. Overall, the Regiment of Artillery needs to constantly upgrade its firepower by enhancing its Surveillance System, Guns, Mortars, Rockets, Missiles and Ammunition, in order to meet the modern-day chal-



ARMY DAY



APART FROM WARS, THE ARMY HAS CONDUCTED PEACETIME EXERCISES SUCH AS OPERATION BRASSTACKS AND EXERCISE SHOOR VEER, AND IT HAS ALSO BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN MANY UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS, INCLUDING THOSE IN: CYPRUS, LEBANON, CONGO, ANGOLA, CAMBODIA, VIETNAM, NAMIBIA, EL SALVADOR, LIBERIA, MOZAMBIQUE, SOUTH SUDAN, AND SOMALIA.

lenges on the battlefield.

Army Day Celebrations

Army Day is celebrated across the country and at all Army Command headquarters with great pomp and show, with many parades and Military Shows being organised. Several regiments of the Indian Army take part in the celebrations, which are held annually at the Army Pa-

all serving Indian army personnel take a pledge on this historic day.

In UN Peacekeeping Missions

The Indian Army is certainly the pride of every Indian, and admired the world over, even by its rival forces, for its professionalism and commitment in the line of duty. The Indian Army is considered among the most trusted forces at the UN and is integral to security and development in the border areas of the country. The Indian Army is also one of the largest troop contributors in UN Peacekeeping Missions.

Apart from wars, the army has conducted peacetime exercises such as Operation Brasstacks and Exercise Shoor Veer, and it has also been actively involved in many United Nations peacekeeping missions, including those in: Cyprus, Lebanon, Congo, Angola, Cambodia, Vietnam, Namibia, El Salvador, Liberia, Mozambique, South Sudan, and Somalia.

The Indian Army is currently modernising its forces to be future ready, as part of its commitment to national security and global peace. The Indian Army shoulders unlimited responsibility for the safety and security of the nation, with its personnel serving without any regard for their personal safety. The Indian Army’s stories of valour have left their mark on the national consciousness, inspiring citizens, especially the youth, to serve the country with devotion.



rade Ground, New Delhi. The event also honours soldiers who lost their lives in combat. Soldiers perform various military drills during the day, showcasing the might of the Indian Army personnel. The day is dedicated to the brave soldiers and their families who safeguard the sovereignty of the country and keep the nation safe and secure with constant vigil.

The Indian army soldiers perform excellent parade during the Army Day celebration, including the exhibition of BLT T-72, T-90 tanks, Brahmos Missile, Carrier Mortar Tracked Vehicle, 155 MM Soltam Gun, Advanced Light Helicopters of the Army Aviation Corps, etc. To maintain their service and protect the nation from enemies,



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Every year on January 15, India celebrates the Indian Army Day. Wave Group would like to take this opportunity to remember the sacrifices made by our Indian army and salute its bravery that fills us with pride and a complete sense of safety.

HAPPY ARMY DAY



Capital gets 2.74 lakh doses; vaccinations 4 times a week

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Dy. CME/Works for Chief Workshop Manager, N.E. Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur, for and on behalf of President of India invites open tender through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work :-

Work No. (J) Tender Notice No. & Name of Work : Tender No."/07-GKP-MMSW-2020-21". "Trainings of GMAWS/KMMAW for 150 Welders as per ISO-3834-2 (Clause-7.2) according to ISO-9606-1". Estimated cost (In Rs.) :

Upto 121.24,00,000. Earnest Money (In Rs.) :

Rs.42,50,000. Last date of tender submission Upto 11.00 hrs., Date 15/02/2021.

Cost of the Tender form: Zero, Period of Contract : 180 Days. The details of above tenders are also available on Indian Railway Website www.irreps.gov.in

Chief Workshop Manager, Mechanical Workshop, CPBRO/Mech.- 85 N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur

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PM's POEMS

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Thursday took to Twitter to share his poems for the second time in a fortnight. At the beginning of the year, the Prime Minister shared a poem with a video called “*Abhi Toh Suraj Uga Hai*”. On Thursday, he shared another poem on Twitter, written in Gujarati. In a few hours, he shared the Hindi translation of the poem, which centred around Sun God, and ends with “*Suraj Dev ko shat shat naman*”.

PUSHBACK TIME

A GROUP of scientists and medical experts has come out strongly against those “casting doubts on Indian scientific community by making politicised comments” on the research for Covid 19 vaccine. Slamming those doubting the work, 49 scientists and experts in a statement said their “reprehensible utterances are causing a huge credibility crisis for the Indian scientific community”. The signatories, led by former AIIMS Director T D Dogra, urged people to “reject the manipulations of vested interests aimed at politicisation and defamation of our nation’s scientists, doctors and scientific community for their narrow vested interests”.

SHORT BREAK

WITH THE Supreme Court not working on Thursday and Friday due to Makar Sankranti/Pongal/Bihu festivals followed by a local holiday, any development in connection with the court-appointed committee on farm laws – following the exit of BKU leader Bhupinder Singh Mann from it – may have to wait till January 18 when the benches sit again. Sources said whether Mann has communicated his decision to exit the committee to the top court will be known only when the Registry resumes work on Saturday.

Former IAS officer from Gujarat cadre joins BJP

MAULSHREE SETH & AVINASH NAIR
LUCKNOW, AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 14

HAVING WORKED closely with Narendra Modi for about 20 years, first in the Chief Minister's Office of Gujarat and then at the Centre after Modi became Prime Minister, Arvind Kumar Sharma joined the BJP on Thursday.

The 1988 batch IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, Sharma took voluntary retirement earlier this week, more than a year before his superannuation in July 2022.

Sharma's joining the BJP comes amid the nominations for the Legislative Council polls in Uttar Pradesh. The ruling BJP is likely to win a majority of the 12 Legislative Council seats that would go to polls on January 28. The last date for filing of nomination papers is January 18.

Sources in the BJP said that the former IAS officer is likely to be nominated in the polls.

Speaking to mediapersons after joining the BJP, Sharma

thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and claimed to be the “son of the soil from a backward village of Mau”, which is part of Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh.

Arvind Kumar Sharma began his career as an assistant collector in Gujarat and quickly rose to become a secretary in the Chief minister's Office (CMO) in October 2001, when Modi became the chief minister of the state. He has been a part of Modi's close circle of bureaucrats.

The only break in this association, which lasted through Modi's three terms as CM, was in 2006 when Sharma went to Australia for training.

Within the CMO in Gujarat, Sharma rose to the rank of additional principal secretary to the CM by 2013-14. He was instrumental in taking forward Modi's biennial global investment summit “Vibrant Gujarat” project that played a key role in transforming the image of a riot-hit state to an investment destination.

Officers find ways around Rlys’ bungalow peons rule

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

A MONTH after the Railway Ministry issued a policy to discontinue the 100-year-old practice of hiring “bungalow peons” for its officers, plans are on to bring them back in a new avatar.

Several zonal railways are said to be in the process of drafting their own local policies that would enable an officer to retain a Telephone Attendant cum Dak Khalasi or “bungalow peon”. The Odisha-based East Coast Railway has already finalised a policy for hiring people on contract for officers’ residences. Sources said other zones may follow suit soon.

The Railway Ministry had authorised zonal general managers to review the situation in their respective areas. Around 8,000 officers of Indian Railways are entitled to this facility under the old policy.

Under the new policy issued by East Coast Railway, “with the approval of the General Manager”, bungalow peons already engaged with officers before the Railway Ministry discontinued the practice, will be screened and absorbed in the Railways like earlier. “Around 30-40 officers, both from the field and from the headquarters,

are waiting to get bungalow peons as per their entitlement,” said a spokesman of the East Coast Railway.

While the central policy says existing Level 1 staff can be engaged as bungalow peons on their consent as per the new rules issued by the ministry, officers say it is hardly feasible. “In any case, bungalow peons, after they get the job, usually do not want to continue to work in houses anymore,” said a senior officer.

Bungalow peons are a sensitive subject for railway officers. Almost no one wants to give up the facility arguing that it is intrinsic to the nature of their job. Railway officers, like their counterparts in the Army, are entitled to keeping a Group D employee posted 24x7 at their homes. The logic is that railway officers get posted in remote, often inhospitable, locations, routinely carry work home or are occupied at odd hours, and hence need help at home. “That is why this practice has been there since the beginning,” said a senior officer.

Typically, officers choose someone to be employed at their home, and after three years, the person gets regular employment in the Railways following a screening process.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Behind farmer-govt trust deficit, misreading of protests

LIZ MATHEW & HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

AS THE farmers' protests acquire a new dimension with the Supreme Court's controversial intervention and one of the four members pulling out of the proposed resolution committee, the challenge, many in the party and government admit, is to address the deep trust deficit between the protesters and the government.

There are voices within who suggest that the government misread the signals on the ground in Punjab, indulged in name-calling that misfired, and brushed aside farmers' concerns by attributing political and ideological motives to the protest.

For six months between May 15, the day Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman first announced the government's intention to enact the three farm laws, and mid-November, when farmer unions gave a Delhi Chalo call, the

government and the party, a leader said, didn't catch the discontentment brewing across Punjab.

No sooner had the Ordinances been promulgated on June 5 than farmers in villages started protests, unions told them these three were “kaala kanoon”, the agitation spread to towns, groups of 50-100 shouted slogans outside the offices of SDMs (Sub-Divisional Magistrates) and District Collectors in tehsils and districts. BJP leaders in Punjab failed to counter this campaign.

“They should not have given up in the beginning itself. Local party leaders either locked themselves in or joined the protesters. We should have countered the arguments. Lekin, hum maidan chodkar bhaag gaye (We fled the battleground),” said a senior party leader and a Union Minister.

If the party was missing in action on the ground in Punjab, the government, too, didn't pay much heed and took the farmers for granted.

ATTENDS JALLIKATTU EVENT

Rahul in TN: No one can suppress Tamil spirit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, JANUARY 14

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of trying to destroy the diverse culture of the country and invoked Tamil spirit, hours after watching a Jallikattu event – a bull-taming sport held as part of Pongal celebrations – near Madurai on Thursday.

“They believe they can suppress the emotions of Tamil people, they believe they can crush the language of the Tamil people, they can suppress the spirit of the Tamil people,” Rahul told reporters after a visit to the famous Jallikattu arena at Avaniyapuram. “I came here to give them a message that nobody can suppress the Tamil spirit. Suppressing the Tamil spirit is the worst thing you can do to this country as this is the essence and soul of India.”

The visit of the former Congress president to Tamil Nadu came even as the BJP, in a bid to increase its visibility in the state ahead of the May assembly elections, organised Pongal celebrations in the districts over the past one week, which were attended by the party's national leaders.

Rahul accused the central government of making moves that are affecting the country's diverse culture and notions and said he was against promoting one idea, language or notion. “There are many different lan-

guages, ideas and all these contribute to our strength and that is my message,” he said.

Rahul visited the Jallikattu arena along with senior Congress leaders and Udhayanidhi Stalin, DMK youth leader and son of party chief M K Stalin.

BJP national general secretary and Tamil Nadu in-charge C T Ravi tweeted: “Dear @RahulGandhi, Your Govt in 2011 labelled #Jallikattu as cruel

& barbaric. Your Party manifesto supported ban on Jallikattu. Today, you are in Tamil Nadu to watch this traditional sport live. Aren't you insulting lovely Tamil Makkal with your hypocrisy?...”

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com



Rahul Gandhi at the Jallikattu event in Madurai, Thursday. PTI

Between June 5 and September 14, when the Bills were introduced in Parliament, of the 69 press releases issued by the Agriculture Ministry, only seven were related to the “landmark and historic decision”.

One reason, some in the BJP claim, the government was probably lulled into complacency with its ally Shiromani Akali Dal backing the Bill until August end. Indeed, Sukhbir Badal released Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar's letter before the start of the Assembly session on August 28 which said procurement and MSP would continue and that Chief Minister Amarinder Singh was misleading farmers.

Days before resigning from the Union Cabinet on September 17, Harsimrat Kaur, too, supported the pro-farmer ordinances terming them “pro-farmer”.

In Parliament, too, the government rammed through the Bills over the next five days, ignoring not just the Opposition who urged these be sent for Parliamentary

scrutiny, but also parties such as AIADMK and BJD which had raised concerns. Its own ally SAD had warned that “the spark that has been lit in Punjab and Haryana... don't allow it to turn into a fire”.

Given the groundswell of support for farmers in Punjab and the intensity of protests, the SAD eventually quit the NDA on September 17 and the farmers had started a rail roko blocking trains from passing through the state.

As this lingered, the top political leadership still believed this was “instigated” by the “usual suspects” of the anti-BJP coalition and underlined how these protests were blocking crucial supplies to troops in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. In fact, the Government even invoked the 1962 war against China to make this point.

Sources in the BJP now say the party may have been hasty in letting the SAD slip out of the NDA fold so easily. “As an ally, we may not have benefited much from

them; they aren't very popular in the state and they have dynasty issues but SAD's exit gave the protests a fresh boost and created an impression of this being a Punjab vs BJP/Centre issue. Also, SAD giving up power gave credence to farmers' suspicion these laws were harmful,” said another Union Minister, who did not wish to be named.

“So the message went out that even if Parkash Singh Badal was leaving the alliance, no one cared at the Centre... that has hurt us,” said a senior BJP leader.

At one stage, the ruling party and the government were “confused” over how to deal with the protests led by Sikh farmers - from showing sympathy to branding them as Maoists and Khalistanis.

It came a full circle with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's community outreach during his border visits and tributes at Gurdwara Rakab Ganj and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh calling them annadatas and regretting the use of labels like Khalistanis or Maoists.

Ministers engaging with unions – Tomar, Piyush Goyal and Som Parkash – made it a point to strike a more conciliatory tone even in photo-ops.

“Rajnathji's forceful rejection of what some of his party and ministerial colleagues' attempts to brand the farmers itself was an indication of the confusion in the party. Not having a prominent Sikh face in the government team didn't help either,” said a BJP MP.

The RSS is also eager to have reservations with the government's handling of the protests. During the recent three-day meeting in Ahmedabad, the Sangh leadership conveyed these “thoughts” to BJP president J P Nadda on the manner in which the Bills were brought in, said sources present in the meeting.

An outreach blitzkrieg of 100 press conferences and meetings with farmer groups launched in December, only proved to be too late – the “right thing at the wrong place and wrong time,” as a leader admitted.

NIA summons 4, they say targeted over farm stir

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL
LUDHIANA, JANUARY 14

A TOURIST bus operator, a nut and bolt trader, a cable operator and a journalist from Punjab have been served notices for questioning by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with a seditious case registered against Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, a designated terrorist and the legal advisor of US-based banned pro-Khalistan outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ).

The four served notices have been supporting the agitation against the three farm laws. While the three businessmen, all from Ludhiana, had started a bus service for farmers to reach Delhi, the journalist from Patiala has been vocal on social media in support of farmers. All four distanced themselves from SFJ and claimed that they have been falsely implicated due to their support to the farm agitation.

Hazare to PM: Going on my last fast

Pune: Activist Anna Hazare has written to PM Narendra Modi, conveying his resolve to go ahead with the “last fast of his life” by the end of January in Delhi. In the letter, Hazare said that although he has written four times to book the Ramli

Ground for his protest, he has not received any response.

He said he has written to the PM five times so far on implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, and revising the MSP formula, but got no response. **ENS**

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Manish Sisodia
Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi

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Department of Art, Culture & Languages, Government of NCT of Delhi

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DRAW OF FLATS

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With the help of live streaming/telecast of draw proceeding on youtube live. Due to ongoing situation of Covid-19 pandemic, restriction were imposed by Ministry of Home Affairs, over public gathering in order to prevent spreading of corona virus disease.

As per MHA/ DTCP Haryana Guidelines draw shall be conducted with maximum strength of 50 persons including draw committee and staff at site, remaining applicants shall participate in draw online after login into below provided link on YouTube live.

YouTube Link - <https://www.youtube.com/user/SignatureGlobal>

Note: If any applicant wants to check his/her name in the list he/she may contact to SIP Office, Gurugram as well as the office of colonizer before draw of lots.

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Genome sequencing lab installed at Delhi airport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

A PORTABLE genome sequencing lab was installed at the Delhi Airport on Thursday to trace and contain mutant strains of the coronavirus found in passengers arriving from foreign countries.

The lab was set up by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology in a tie-up with healthcare firm SpiceHealth.

The genome sequencing of positive samples will help ensure early action in containing new mutant variants that have increased transmissibility, said CSIR-D-G Dr Shekhar Mande, adding that these portable sequencers will be deployed at other airports across the country. "We have also made the number of days for sequencing faster. Whereas before it could take up to 8-10 days, now it can be done within 24-48 hours," said Dr Mande. He said faster intervention could considerably reduce the risk of transmission.

CSIR-IGIB is a constituent member of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium recently announced by the Health Ministry. Dr Anurag Agrawal, CSIR-IGIB Director, said: "Affordable and widespread point-of-care sequencing is one of the most important new trends in next age diagnostics. Here, we plan to use it to help in better monitoring and managing the SARS CoV2 pandemic, but this is just a beginning towards its many potential clinical and public health applications."

Union Minister slams Kerala Health Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 14

UNION MINISTER V Murala-ee-haran on Thursday alleged that Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja had failed in containing the spread of Covid-19 and had instead been busy getting herself on the cover page of fashion magazines.

He told reporters here that the LDF government had failed in fighting the pandemic and demanded that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan clarify who was responsible for the failure. "Kerala is now a state reporting the most number of cases in a single day. The Chief Minister and the Health Minister have misled the people and worsened the situation. Is it his fault or that of the Health Minister? In her hurry to be the face of fashion magazines, has the Health Minister become unaware of the current situation?," he asked.

Govt seeks voter data for vaccine drive, EC agrees

RITIKA CHOPRA & KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) has agreed to a request from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to share electoral roll data for identifying the age group targeted for the first phase of the Covid-19 vaccination drive, sources told *The Indian Express*.

The Commission, sources said, is now waiting for a response on the specific data required by the Ministry.

According to the Government's blueprint, the vaccine will be offered first to healthcare workers, frontline workers and those above 50 years of age, followed by those below 50 with associated comorbidities. The priority group of above 50 may be further divided into those above 60 and those between 50 and 60 for a phased rollout.

According to sources, the EC's electoral roll data has been sought to identify people above



The first consignment of the Covishield vaccine arrives at Dimapur Airport on Thursday. *ANI*

the age of 50 in each polling station. The EC is now working on a format of sharing to protect electoral privacy, they said.

"One option being considered is that we provide booth-wise information of voters above the age of 50 to the respective states, as opposed to handing over information of all states to one agency," said an official, who spoke on the condition

of anonymity.

Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla's request to the Commission came after a meeting between representatives of the Health Ministry and the EC last month.

According to sources, the Health Ministry wanted to understand the structure of the election machinery and how polls are conducted at the grassroots level. This was done since

the vaccination drive will be similar to the election process given the similarities in the scale of the two operations.

But under the National Disaster Management Act, the MHA is the nodal central agency coordinating with all state governments to contain the pandemic and ensure a uniform approach.

Last month, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora had told *The Indian Express* that the EC is open to offering assistance, if sought by the system, in administering the vaccine.

Speaking at the Idea Exchange programme, Arora had said the ongoing pandemic is an unprecedented national crisis that requires "exceptional and extraordinary" response.

"Currently, we do not have any legal authority (to assist in the administration of the vaccine). To conduct elections, we are empowered under Article 324. But having said that, given the experience and expertise we have, if someone reaches out to us for a national cause, we will take a call," he had said.

MAHARASHTRA MINISTER ACCUSED OF RAPE

BJP, MNS leaders allege harassment by woman, file police complaints

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, JANUARY 14

A BJP LEADER and an MNS leader on Thursday complained of harassment by the woman who has accused NCP leader and state Social Justice Minister Dhananjay Munde of rape.

BJP leader Krishna Hegde and MNS leader Manish Dhuri lodged police complaints about an hour after NCP President Sharad Pawar said allegations against Munde were serious and the party would take a decision after internal consultations. "The allegations are serious and naturally, we as a party, have to take a decision. I have not had a word with the party leaders on this issue and will soon have a discussion. Munde met me and told me his side of the story," Pawar told mediapersons.

A woman who claims to be Munde's sister-in-law has accused him of rape. Munde has denied the allegation and claimed that he is being blackmailed by the complainant and her sister with whom he was in a relationship and has two children.

Soon after Pawar spoke, for-

mer Congress MLA Hegde, who joined BJP in 2017, approached Amboli police and lodged a complaint of harassment against the woman. He alleged that she tried to honey trap him in 2010. "The woman had been calling and messaging me since 2010. She kept asking me to be in a relationship with her. I always turned down her request to meet," Hegde said in his complaint.

"I am informed that a few more persons have been honey-trapped and money has been extorted," he added.

MNS leader Dhuri is the second politician to file a complaint against the woman at Amboli police station, accusing her of extortion and blackmail. He claimed that the woman had harassed him in 2009. "She wanted to use my contacts in the film industry. She had even taken me to her house in Andheri (East) on the pretext that her sister wanted to meet me. However, when I went to the apartment, I sensed something amiss, as there was nobody in the house... I feared someone was recording me," he said, adding that he had then stopped communicating with her.

CBI books four of its officials for bribes, raids own headquarters

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Thursday raided its own headquarters at the CGO complex here after booking four officials for allegedly taking bribes from a company being probed by the agency. It also launched search operations at 14 locations on premises associated with these officials, and some middlemen and chartered accountants, across the country.

"The CBI has registered a case against its four officials, including a DSP, inspector, steno and private persons/others, including advocates etc., on the allegations of compromising the investigation of certain cases on extraneous pecuniary considerations," CBI spokesperson R C Joshi said.

The officials were identified by sources as DySPs R K Rishi and R K Sangwan; stenographer Sameer Kumar Singh; and Inspector Kapil Dhandak.

Searches were carried out at premises in Delhi, Ghaziabad, Noida, Gurgaon, Meerut and Kanpur, CBI officials said. Late on Thursday night, a team also searched offices associated with the four officials at the CBI headquarters at the CGO complex.

Sources said of the two DySPs named, one has worked in the Banking and Securities Fraud Cell of the agency for long. The suspected officials allegedly took bribes in connection with a bank fraud case, estimated to be worth over Rs 3,500 crore, involving a company based in Mumbai. The

officials are accused of extending favours and sharing case information with the company in exchange for bribes paid every month.

Sources said the officials were in touch with the promoters of the company and multiple middlemen who negotiated on their behalf. The inquiry was started based on information from a source, following which a CBI special unit put the phones of the suspected officials under surveillance and the allegations against them were found to be prima facie true.

Two years ago, the CBI had put five officials of one of its anti-corruption units under scanner for allegedly helping suspects being probed by the agency for pecuniary gains. Their names had cropped up following a raid on a caterer at the Palika Services Officers' Institute in Chanakyaपुर in 2018. The caterer, Rakesh Tiwari, had earlier served as the CBI's caterer.

In searches carried out in August 2018 at the institute, the CBI had recovered 20 Rolex luxury watches, Rs 3.6 crore in cash and Rs 1.6 crore worth jewellery from a cupboard in Tiwari's office. The CBI claimed to have also come across documents showing alleged hawala transactions to the tune of several crores of rupees. Sources said the agency suspected that several officers were using Tiwari's services to transfer funds abroad illegally, and to influence CBI cases registered against them.

However, no officer has as yet been prosecuted in the case, with transfers of some DySP and inspector-level officers the only action taken.

Dushyant Dave steps down as SCBA president

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

SENIOR ADVOCATE Dushyant Dave on Thursday stepped down as president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) with immediate effect.

In a brief letter, Dave, who was elected to head the lawyers' body in December 2019, said that the tenure of the SCBA Executive Committee had already ended and it may not be possible to hold virtual elections as per schedule "due to reservations held by some lawyers".

"Following recent events, I feel that I have forfeited my right to continue as your Leader and so

I hereby tender my Resignation from the post of the President of the SCBA with immediate effect. Our term has already come to an end," the letter said.

It added that "we sincerely decided to hold virtual election to elect a new body. Now I find it may not be possible to hold them as per the schedule declared by the Election Committee due to reservations held by some of you. I understand their position and have no quarrel with it but to me any further continuation as the President in these circumstances will be morally wrong".

Dave was first elected SCBA president in 2014 and was re-elected in 2015.

KARNATAKA

Man assaulted for 'cattle transport' now booked under new anti-slaughter law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JANUARY 14

IN WHAT is being considered the first case under the new ordinance banning cow slaughter in Karnataka, Chikmagalur police have booked a truck driver who was allegedly transporting cattle when he was stopped by a group of unidentified people and assaulted.

Police said Abid Ali, who is also the owner of the truck, was allegedly transporting 12 to 15 cattle head in his truck from Ranebennur to Mangaluru.

Chikmagalur SP Akshay M Hakay told *The Indian Express* that the case has been registered under the new ordinance. According to the police officers, Ali was

beaten up by a group of unidentified people on January 8 while he was allegedly transporting the cattle. The group also took away money from him, they said.

"Since Ali was injured, he was taken to a hospital. He is now at a hospital in his hometown Davangere," an officer said.

The Karnataka government recently promulgated the anti-cow slaughter ordinance that provides for punishment for killing of cattle and offers protection to those "acting in good faith" to save them. The Bill to this effect is yet to be cleared by the Legislative Council.

The state cabinet last week decided to promulgate Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Ordinance 2020, which has now received the Governor's assent.

Capable of befitting reply if any superpower hurts our pride: Rajnath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU, JANUARY 14

INDIA DOES not want a war but its soldiers are capable of giving a befitting reply if any 'superpower' hurts the country's pride, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday.

"We don't want war and we are in favour of protecting everyone's security but I want to say this in clear terms that if any superpower wants to hurt our pride then our soldiers are capable of giving them a befitting reply," Singh said.

"It always wanted peace and



Rajnath Singh

friendly ties with its neighbours because it's in our blood and culture," he said at the fifth Armed Forces' Veterans' Day at the Headquarters Training Command of the Indian Air Force in Bengaluru.

Six months after CM Amarinder promised help, Special Olympics double gold medalist in Ludhiana dies in penury

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL
LUDHIANA, JANUARY 14

LIFTING STONES and bricks with his father for Rs 400 a day, and later working as a caretaker at a shelter home for the differently-abled, feeding and bathing inmates — this is how Rajvir Singh (21) from Siarh village of Ludhiana, who won two gold medals at the 2015 Special Olympics in Los Angeles, provided for his family.

Six months after Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh promised him help in a video posted on Twitter, and five years after he won his medals in cycling, Rajvir, who suffered from an intellectual disability due to a brain-related ailment, died at Christian Medical College and

Hospital (CMCH) Ludhiana Wednesday after being on ventilator support for nearly a month. His cash prize of Rs 30 lakh (Rs 15 lakh for each medal), promised by the then SAD-BJP government in 2015, is yet to reach him.

Rajvir was cremated at their village on Thursday. Father Balbir Singh, a labourer, said, "My son's achievement was never valued by the Punjab government. For five years after he won the gold medals in 2015, we were given promises. First the Badals, then Capt Amarinder Singh and Congress leaders such as Navjot Singh Sidhu, everyone promised to help and get my son's pending cash prize released but no one did. We ran from pillar to post but my son died without getting his due honour and prize money."



Rajvir won two gold medals at the 2015 Special Olympics

"The governments and politicians must remember that we were not begging or asking for favours, it was

my son's right. Promises were made to him and they were never fulfilled. My son got more ill and depressed because he was carrying the burden that despite his achievement, his family was living hand-to-mouth."

Rajvir, who suffered from epilepsy and other issues since childhood, had undergone a brain surgery in the past. On December 18, he was admitted to Deepak Hospital in Ludhiana, and referred to CMCH on January 4 after his condition deteriorated. He remained on ventilator support for nearly a month before succumbing to a severe brain infection. "We cleared bills of nearly Rs 5 lakh as his father is very poor. In fact, not us but the sangat contributing and helped us get him treated... the way his achievement was treated by the governments... it

BRIEFLY

RAJASTHAN

Spurious liquor: 7 dead in 3 days

Jaipur: Seven persons died in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district over a period of three days while several others were undergoing treatment after consuming illegally brewed spurious liquor, officials said. According to the officials, four people died of methyl alcohol poisoning on Tuesday night and Wednesday while three more people passed away by the early hours of Thursday. Bharatpur superintendent of police Devendra Kumar Bishnoi said that five people have been arrested so far. Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot expressed grief over the incident. **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH

Covid patient jumps to death

Meerut: A 51-year-old man who tested positive for Covid-19 jumped to death from the fourth floor of the Muzaffarnagar Medical College and Hospital on Thursday. While family members of Rajkumar have alleged negligence on part of the hospital, police suspect "acute depression" to be the reason behind his extreme step. Rajkumar's son, Sudhir, along with other family members and villagers staged a sit-in on the hospital premises, demanding immediate action against those "guilty". Hospital authorities and police officers intervened and assured them of action following an inquiry. **ENS**

HARYANA

Khattar flags off air taxi services

Chandigarh: Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday launched aviation services between Chandigarh and Hisar at Chandigarh International Airport. This service has been started by Air Taxi Aviation Company. Besides the pilot, three passengers will be able to travel in these air taxis. The distance from Chandigarh to Hisar will be covered by the aircraft in 45 minutes. This service has been started under the Udaan scheme of the Centre. The company will start air service from Hisar to Dehradun from January 18 and from Hisar to Dharamshala on January 23. **ENS**

Nepal foreign minister to meet Jaishankar today

First high-level diplomatic visit from Nepal since border row with India

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

NEPAL'S FOREIGN Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali will meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday for their first face-to-face meeting since the border row led to a slide in ties.

Gyawali, who arrived in New Delhi Thursday afternoon, will co-chair the India-Nepal Joint Commission meeting along with Jaishankar on Friday. This comes against the backdrop of a political crisis in Nepal, where Nepal PM K P Sharma Oli has dissolved the Parliament and is now heading a caretaker government.

"The Joint Commission is an important mechanism that provides the opportunity of reviewing at a high level the entire gamut of our bilateral partnership and providing political guidance to further enhance the special and unique ties that we enjoy. We look forward to constructive discussions on the numerous sectors that encompass our bilateral agenda," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

On whether there will be talks on the boundary issue, the MEA spokesperson said, "Our position on the boundary issue is well known. Let me say that the JCM and boundary talks are separate mechanisms."

The Nepal Foreign Minister's visit comes about a month and a half after the first high-level diplomatic visit to Nepal in

EXPLAINED Bid to reset ties

INDIA'S INAUGURATION of a new road from Dharchula to Lipulekh on the Mansarovar Yatra route had angered the Oli government which came out with a new map of Nepal, adding to it an area at the tri-junction of Nepal, India and China (Tibet) which India maintains is its territory. A Constitution amendment Bill was passed by Nepal Parliament to legitimise alteration to the country's map. After Shringla's visit, Gyawali's trip is an effort to reset bilateral ties hit by the row.

November when Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla went to Kathmandu and met the country's leaders, including Prime Minister Oli and Gyawali, among others.

Sources said that the conversations will pick up the threads from the conversations between Foreign Secretary Shringla's discussions with PM Oli — the two had a one-on-one meeting, apart from the delegation level talks — which had included a "candid review of the state of the bilateral relationship", and the potential for bringing India and Nepal closer.



LAKE OF ICE

A frozen Dal Lake on Thursday as Srinagar recorded a low of -8.4 degrees Celsius. Shuaib Masoodi

NAWAB MALIK'S SON-IN-LAW HELD IN NARCOTICS CASE

NCB to court: Sameer Khan financed drugs business plan with UK national

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, JANUARY 14

THE NARCOTICS Control Bureau (NCB), which had on Wednesday arrested Sameer Khan, the son-in-law of NCP leader and Cabinet Minister Nawab Malik, told the court on Thursday that Khan and a British national, Karan Sajani, were planning to sell cannabis-related products online "under the guise of herbal products".

According to NCB, the two accused were trying to circumvent provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act by passing off the products as a "herbal mix".

The agency alleged that Khan was a financier and partner in the business and had been charged under Section 27 (A) of the NDPS Act, which is linked to financing.

He was planned to police custody till Monday, while the three other accused in the case, including Sajani, were sent to NCB custody till Saturday.

Earlier in the day, Malik said on Twitter that the law would take its due course. "Nobody is above the law and it should be applied without any discrimination. Law will take its due course and justice will prevail. I respect and have immense faith in our judiciary," he tweeted.

An NCB officer said that they have submitted WhatsApp chats and bank documents to the court that point to a "partnership" between Khan and Sajani to distribute "marijuana-related products under the guise of herbal products".

Sajani, who was based in Hong Kong before Britain, had returned to India after his business suffered losses. "Here, he met his

childhood friend, Khan, nearly 15 months ago and conspired to source and sell marijuana-related products," the officer said.

The plan was to import marijuana from Seattle in the US via courier and then mix it with tobacco and CBD oil and sell the same as herbal products. It was while receiving one such order that NCB officers received a tip-off and raided Sajani's house.

Khan's lawyer Taraq Sayyed, however, denied the allegations. He told the court that Sajani and Khan were acquaintances and had discussed many business ideas, including those linked to tobacco. They had nothing to do with marijuana, he claimed, adding that there wasn't anything substantial in Sayyed's statement recorded by the NCB. "There was no marijuana or CBD oil involved and there was no agreement between the duo," Sayyed said.

Delhi HC to hear plea against WhatsApp's new privacy policy today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

THE DELHI High Court will hear on Friday a petition seeking injunction with immediate effect against the updated privacy policy of WhatsApp.

In the petition filed by a lawyer, a direction has also been sought to the Centre for laying down guidelines to ensure that the instant messaging platform does not share any data of its users with any third party or Facebook and its companies for any purpose.

Alleging that WhatsApp changed its privacy policy in "most arbitrary manner" and has made it compulsory for its users, the petition contends that the latest policy violates the right to privacy of citizens of India. "WhatsApp has included certain clauses in the New Policy which directly hit the fundamental rights of the individual," the plea says.

"This type of arbitrary behaviour and browbeating cannot be accepted in a democracy."

It contends that WhatsApp's privacy policy essentially takes away the choice users had until now to not share their data with other Facebook-owned and third-party applications. "WhatsApp through the policy is clearly trying to share its users' data to the parent company and other companies which will eventually use that data to serve their vested interests," the petition says. "It virtually gives a 360-degree profile into a person's on-line activity."

Under Article 226, the plea argues, a writ can be issued to "any person or authority", including the private bodies, and also for the enforcement of fundamental rights or "for any other purpose".

WhatsApp has become an important mode of communication among the citizens of India and is also being used to aid multiple governmental functions, the petition says.

It states that the updated privacy policy will not be applicable "for the European Region owing to the data protection laws in place there" and contends that it was being enforced in India "in most monopolistic way" in the absence of any comprehensive law.

The petition seeks guidelines or directions to ensure that any change in privacy policy by WhatsApp is carried out strictly in accordance with the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

In S Korea, university students fight to save one of country's two Hindi language programmes

NEHA BANKA
KOLKATA, JANUARY 14

IN 2020, a group of students and faculty members of a South Korean university recorded a video message for Prime Minister Narendra Modi with an unexpected appeal—the retention of a Hindi language subject.

The Busan University of Foreign Studies (BUFS) is one of only two institutes in South Korea that teaches Hindi as a full-time subject to undergraduate stu-

dents. But with its Department of Indian Studies allegedly considering phasing out the language, the students faculty have launched a virtual protest, even knocking on the doors of the Indian Embassy in Seoul.

According to protesting students, the department head feels that English would be sufficient for Korean nationals interested in working, studying and travelling in India.

But as second-year student Lee Junhak explains, not knowing a language can only get you

so far in a foreign land. "I travelled extensively across India in 2016, and enrolled in Pune's Fergusson College to study Hindi the same year. I joined this course to polish my skills in this language," says the 24-year-old in perfect Hindi.

Hindi is taught at the university by three faculty members, two of whom are Indian nationals working on a contract basis. One of them, requesting anonymity, echoes Junhak's argument. "I have learned a lot about Korean culture because I

studied the language," he says.

The BUFS administration did not respond to phone calls by *The Indian Express* seeking comment.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in Seoul stated on Twitter on December 23: "Ever since this matter was highlighted by Hindi professors at BUFS, the Embassy has been in touch with the top officials of the University. We will make all efforts to address the concerns of these students."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

TRP case: ED questions 2 BARC officers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 14

AHEAD OF the Bombay High Court hearing in the alleged fake TRP scam, the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is investigating a money laundering case pertaining to TRP rigging, on Thursday questioned two officers of ratings agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) for over five hours.

Earlier this week, the ED questioned the India Today Group CFO for over seven hours in the case. Sources said the India Today Group was called on the basis of the original complaint filed in the fake TRP case with the Mumbai Police and raw data obtained by the ED from BARC for the alleged period under examination.

The ED, sources said, has called the CFO again for questioning as the agency is not satisfied with the answers given by

the official. So far, the agency has recorded statements of all the accused mentioned in the FIR filed by Mumbai Police.

The scam came to light last year when BARC lodged a complaint through Hansa Research Group, alleging that certain television channels were rigging TRP numbers.

Police alleged that some channels were paying bribe to fraudulently boost TRP, so as to increase advertising revenue.



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

| सार्वजनिक सूचना | | | | |
|--|-----------|---|---------------|--|
| एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि निम्न तालिका में अंकित विवरण के अनुसार आवंटित भूखण्ड के विरुद्ध अतिदेय धनराशि का भुगतान आवंटियों द्वारा निर्धारित अवधि में जमा नहीं किया गया है और न ही इस संबंध में कोई सूचना प्राधिकरण को दी गयी है। जो कि आवंटन एवं पट्टा प्रलेख की शर्तों का उल्लंघन किये जाने की पुष्टि करता है। प्राधिकरण के अभिलेखानुसार आवंटित भूखण्डों के विरुद्ध देयता संबंधी विवरण नियमानुसार है:- | | | | |
| Sr. no | Property | Name of Allottee | Dues in (Rs.) | |
| 1. | 44/F-037 | JOY NETWORK SOLUTIONS P LTD TH. IQBAL DEEP SINGH | 20230374.00 | |
| 2. | 44/F-105 | KAMAL SHARMA | 55804203.05 | |
| 3. | 44/F-010 | BELA GUPTA | 54265549.20 | |
| 4. | 44/F-030 | ARCHANA GUPTA | 53381971.61 | |
| 5. | 44/G-066 | PANKAJ GUPTA | 20581103.00 | |
| 6. | 44/G-119 | DR NITYA NAGPAL & KL NAGPAT | 13592875.00 | |
| 7. | 44/G-136 | ANSHUL AGARWAL & ANKUR AGARWAL | 37828152.83 | |
| 8. | 44/G-054 | SANDHYA MISHRA | 2998957.00 | |
| 9. | 44/G-052 | SATYENDRA NAGAR | 2389738.00 | |
| 10. | 44/G-133 | SANDEEP BHATIA & NIGHU BHATIA | 32908045.92 | |
| 11. | 44/F-095 | MANAV KOTHARI | 26690228.92 | |
| 12. | 44/F-026 | PANKAJ GUPTA | 25301964.15 | |
| 13. | 44/F-122 | SYMPHO MARKETING P LTD DIR V P BABBAR | 6416635.00 | |
| 14. | 99/A-007 | NARATA RAM JINDAL | 21726880.58 | |
| 15. | 93B/B-001 | TARA CHAND MUTTREJA | 21181832.50 | |
| 16. | 44/G-216 | A NAGASUNDARAM & A CHAMUNDRESWARI | 20631894.73 | |
| 17. | 48/D-127 | RASHMI KUMAR | 23063860.00 | |
| 18. | 44/G-097 | YOGENDRA KUMAR GARG | 17444960.85 | |
| 19. | 72/A-052A | SANJAY C PRAKASH & REKHA SANJAY | 16979234.00 | |
| 20. | 99/A-009 | DHANESH | 14148551.99 | |
| 21. | 105/A-025 | ADITYA LEEKHA | 13904979.33 | |
| 22. | 99/A-010 | MANISHA AGGARWAL | 12200391.93 | |
| 23. | 72/B-090 | RUDRARAJU CHINA SUBBARAJU | 11870092.00 | |
| 24. | 72/B-088 | ABDUL RAIS | 1374615.00 | |
| 25. | 99/A-007 | JITENDER KUMAR | 11325944.31 | |
| 26. | 100/B-034 | SUBHASH CHANDRA | 10862366.67 | |
| 27. | 99/A-075 | UMA SHARMA, YOGENDRA KUMAR SHARMA | 10291784.54 | |
| 28. | 71/B-070 | PRADEEP KALRA | 9818119.00 | |
| 29. | 99/A-091 | MANI KANT JHA | 9442464.64 | |
| 30. | 100/C-041 | ANIL | 8626631.90 | |
| 31. | 51/E-043 | BASU DEV SEMWAL | 8596163.03 | |
| 32. | 100/C-096 | AVNEESH KUMAR | 8548193.90 | |
| 33. | 93B/B-036 | JYOTI SHARMA & PAWAN KUMAR SHARMA | 88711541.00 | |
| 34. | 44/G-179 | VIPIN AGRAWAL & DEEPTI AGARWAL | 8246542.19 | |
| 35. | 61/D-223 | SAROJ GOEL | 8134708.61 | |
| 36. | 100/A-023 | RADHA CHARAN SHARMA & SATWATI SHARMA | 6872082.26 | |
| 37. | 99/A-001 | SARITA CHAUHAN | 6960425.00 | |
| 38. | 51/D-048 | SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH | 6597093.17 | |
| 39. | 100/B-008 | SHASHI KANT | 6299748.53 | |
| 40. | 46/A-038 | MINAKSHI BHARDWAJ | 6295255.22 | |
| 41. | 47/D-088 | SHALES MOR | 6263604.46 | |
| 42. | 93B/B-055 | ANURADHA AGARWAL | 610795.13 | |
| 43. | 100/C-015 | SANJEEV GUPTA | 6198641.81 | |
| 44. | 47/D-163 | ALOK KUMAR MITTAL | 5221147.93 | |
| 45. | 92/A-145 | ANIL AGARWAL | 5350769.80 | |
| 46. | 44/G-153 | SH RAJ KUMAR SINGH | 5319424.57 | |
| 47. | 108/D-315 | SHATRU GHAN KAUSHIK | 5317939.63 | |
| 48. | 99/A-103 | CHETAN BHARDWAJ | 5239596.83 | |
| 49. | 99/B-013 | KISHAN SINGH | 5218293.29 | |
| 50. | 105/B-305 | KAMAL PRAKASH PANT | 4978212.93 | |
| 51. | 105/B-335 | INDU SHARMA | 4814384.53 | |
| 52. | 105/B-360 | VUENDRA | 4700157.21 | |
| 53. | 122/B-037 | PREM KUMAR SHARMA | 4414186.79 | |
| 54. | 51/D-157 | MAHENDRA NATH DUBEY | 3948355.96 | |
| 55. | 100/C-074 | Sandhya Rani wife of Vipin verma and Vipin Verma | 3903883.53 | |
| 56. | 122/B-281 | AMIT YADAV | 3872358.02 | |
| 57. | 44/G-123 | SEEMA GARG | 3849211.85 | |
| 58. | 47/B-038 | VIVEK KUMAR | 3767538.73 | |
| 59. | 100/A-052 | SUNITA DARGAN | 3753892.34 | |
| 60. | 100/C-102 | SH SHRICHAND | 3658055.87 | |
| 61. | 93B/A-084 | PRASHANT KHAMBRA | 3533947.66 | |
| 62. | 100/C-040 | RAM SINGH & RAHUL KUMAR | 3456734.35 | |
| 63. | 72/E-130 | RISHI MANGOO | 3442952.17 | |
| 64. | 46/A-080 | SANJEEV AGARWAL | 3404125.82 | |
| 65. | 46/B-205 | MANJU CHAUHAN | 3284364.74 | |
| 66. | 122/C-250 | DILIP KUMAR | 3233080.35 | |
| 67. | 100/C-231 | REENA SRIVASTAVA | 2972979.10 | |
| 68. | 71/A-029 | PRAMOD KUMAR GARG & ASHA KISHAN GARG | 2913843.52 | |
| 69. | 44/H-001 | ANIL TAKKAR SUNIL TAKKAR BOTH SO SH INDERJEET TAKKAR AND ARVIND AHUJA | 2836354.00 | |
| 70. | 122/A-226 | RAJIV SHARMA | 2509903.82 | |
| 71. | 52/C-177 | MS NIDHI BATRA | 2311814.70 | |
| 72. | 47/A-282 | O P BHATIA | 2236134.34 | |
| 73. | 46/A-485 | PRAMOD KUMAR SHARMA | 2213980.36 | |
| 74. | 50/D-056 | RISHI MAGOO | 2182267.30 | |
| 75. | 47/A-300 | VIJAY ABROL | 2175875.06 | |
| 76. | 122/B-175 | AJAY SINGH | 2108911.94 | |
| 77. | 46/A069 | SUNIL CHOPRA | 2080913.57 | |
| 78. | 47/A-535 | IRSHAD FARRUKH | 2049141.04 | |
| 79. | 48/A-100 | PALLAV MISHRA & PRIYANKA MISHRA | 2007777.07 | |
| 80. | 51/C-097 | VIJAY KUMAR | 1886617.64 | |
| 81. | 49/D-075 | NIDHI BHATLA | 18187.56.48 | |
| 82. | 39/B-009 | B B PANT & SHASHTI PANT | 1737060.75 | |
| 83. | 100/A-044 | DHARAM BIR BHATIA | 1695445.98 | |
| 84. | 100/B-030 | NEPAL SINGH | 1670705.66 | |
| 85. | 47/A-120 | ANURADHA PANDEY | 1660339.04 | |
| 86. | 52/C-153 | RAJESH ANEJA | 1648430.56 | |
| 87. | 108/D-291 | PRAMOD KUMAR SHARMA | 16117577.05 | |
| 88. | 47/A-198 | MANJU LATA | 1558443.06 | |
| 89. | 100/C-200 | OMEGA INFO PROJECTS P LTD SIGN B S CHAUHAN | 1516292.67 | |
| 90. | 100/C-206 | SANJAY KUMAR GOEL | 1458669.61 | |
| 91. | 108/D-079 | BHARAT BHUSHAN AGARWAL | 1445145.61 | |
| 92. | 71/B-182 | VINEET PRAKASH | 1396217.44 | |
| 93. | 122/B-241 | NUPUR SHARMA | 1356267.38 | |
| 94. | 51/C-130 | AMIT KUMAR | 1216820.24 | |
| 95. | 100/B-049 | NASIR KAMAL | 1213335.14 | |
| 96. | 108/B-095 | SMT. KUSUM SINGH | 1012581.47 | |

अतः उपरोक्त सूची में उल्लिखित आवंटियों को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस नोटिस के जारी होने की तिथि से 15 दिनों के अन्दर कारण बताये कि क्यों न प्राधिकरण द्वारा आवंटन की धाराओं तथा पट्टा प्रलेख की शर्तों में निहित शर्तियों का पयोग करते हुए उ0प्र0 औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास अधिनियम 1976 के उपबन्धों के अधीन निरस्तीकरण की कार्यवाही कर दी जाय।

यदि आपको द्वारा अतिदेय धनराशि के भुगतान की कार्यवाही कर जमा चालान की प्रति 15 दिन में आवसीय भूखण्ड विभाग में प्रस्तुत नहीं की जाती है तो सम्झा जायेगा कि आपको इस विषय में कुछ भी नहीं कहना है। प्राधिकरण द्वारा बिना किसी अन्य नोटिस के आपको पक्ष में किये गये आवंटन को निरस्त करते हुए निष्पादित पट्टा प्रलेख का तत्काल प्रभाव से पर्याप्तान कर, उक्त भूखण्ड के विरुद्ध जमा धनराशि नियमानुसार प्राधिकरण के पक्ष में जब करते हुए आवंटित भूखण्ड का कब्जा वापस ले लिया जायेगा।

- नोट:-
1. अंतिम गणना के समय तालिका में प्रदर्शित अतिदेय धनराशि घट या बढ़ सकती है।
 2. यदि किसी आवंटी द्वारा देय धनराशि जमा की जा चुकी है तो वे लेखाधिकारी आवसीय भूखण्ड नौएडा से संपर्क कर जमा चालान की पुष्टि करा ले।

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA



THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

FAKE NEWS AND RUMORS THRIVE ONLINE BECAUSE FEW
VERIFY WHAT'S REAL AND ALWAYS BIAS TOWARDS CONTENT
THAT REINFORCES THEIR OWN BIASES - RYAN HIGA

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

THE CORRECTION

Allahabad HC rings a welcome note of constitutional caution against reckless state intrusion on personal life

THE ALLAHABAD HIGH Court judgment striking down provisions of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 that make it mandatory for couples to publish a 30-day public notice of their intent to marry — which often exposes them to vigilante and familial violence — is a significant and much-needed correction. By unambiguously underlining the primacy of individual autonomy, it rings a note of constitutional sanity at a time when anti-conversion ordinances in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have licensed reckless state intrusions on inter-personal relationships in the name of countering “love jihad”. A single-judge bench of the high court ruled that the compulsory notice inviting scrutiny and objections encroached on “the fundamental rights of liberty and privacy, including within its sphere freedom to choose for marriage without interference from state and non-state actors, of the persons concerned.” The Law Commission of India report in 2012 had made a similar recommendation to “keep a check on the high-handed and unwarranted interference by caste assemblies in sagotra, inter-caste or inter-religious marriages”.

In theory, at least, a secular state had envisioned the Special Marriage Act, 1954, as a means to clear a space for Indian citizens to marry outside the boundaries of religious and caste identity; to support a refashioning of identity in a society still in thrall to strict endogamy and communitarian identities. But in practice, the public notice ended up giving vigilante groups, families hostile to inter-faith and inter-caste unions, and the social prejudice of legal bureaucracy disproportionate powers to police young couples. As a result, many preferred to convert and marry under personal laws, rather than expose themselves to harassment. The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, which makes religious conversion for marriage a crime, has a more draconian version of this provision: It demands a 60-day notice to the district magistrate and a police inquiry to ascertain the “real” intention behind conversion.

Even today, inter-faith unions make up a minuscule minority of marriages. The HC judgment reaffirms the first principles that accord constitutional protection to this minority — and goes further. It is also a reminder that the weight of a series of landmark Supreme Court judgments in recent years pushes back against societal and state meddling in personal affairs. From rulings that recognise the right to privacy as a fundamental right (*Puttaswamy v Union of India*), the right to choose one's partner (*Hadiya* case) and the ruling that decriminalised homosexuality, they form “a long chain of decisions growing stronger with time and firmly establishing personal liberty and privacy to be fundamental”. As several reports in this newspaper have shown, the anti-conversion ordinance in UP is being weaponised against precisely this guarantee, with disastrous consequences for the hard-won freedoms of young women and men. For BJP-ruled states that have embarked on a high-stakes campaign to police the intimate lives of citizens, the Allahabad High Court judgment is a reminder and a warning that the constitution remains the bulwark against an overreaching state.

PEACE CHALLENGE

Transition in US provides window for Kabul and Delhi to signal concerns about Afghan process to Washington

THE TWO-DAY VISIT by National Security Advisor Ajit Kumar Doval to Kabul was the first by a high-ranking Indian official to Afghanistan after talks began at Doha between the Taliban and a delegation of the Afghan Republic. It came days after US President-elect Joe Biden's victory received Congressional certification and as Washington prepares for the transition. One of the big foreign policy challenges for the incoming Biden Administration is how to take forward the Afghan process under the Trump regime. Piloted by Special Representative Zalmay Khalilzad, it led to an agreement with the Taliban for the US to withdraw almost all its troops from Afghanistan, with a prayer that the Taliban had changed enough since the last time to work in cooperation with Afghan political parties and other stakeholders for peaceful and democratic governance. The talks between the Taliban and the Kabul delegation are still on, although after the first couple of weeks, the meetings have been put on hold. It is no secret that the government of President Ashraf Ghani has been wary of this process since it began, and the refusal of the Taliban to call a ceasefire and the high levels of violence have not helped allay suspicions in Kabul about its intentions.

India has been concerned about a process in which it has had no role and that gave Pakistan — which used its influence to deliver the Taliban to the talks table — an upper hand in deciding the outcomes in Kabul. The Pakistan security establishment's cosy relationship with the Taliban and the Haqqani network, and the increasing fungibility of groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Toiba, have raised several security red flags in Delhi. The transition in the US has provided a timely window in which both Kabul and Delhi could signal these concerns to Washington. Kabul is eager to make clear to President-elect Biden that the Taliban must agree to a ceasefire. Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar has sought Delhi's support for this. A Democratic administration may also be more sensitive to the concerns of other stakeholders in Afghanistan, such as women and rights groups, who have real fears about a return of the Taliban. Earlier this week, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India might increase “military assistance” to Afghanistan.

It is now more than two years since Afghanistan has had a full-time ambassador in Delhi. It is time for Delhi to rethink the “temporary” closure of the Indian consulates in Jalalabad and Herat, apparently due to concerns over COVID and heightened violence.

MY TRUTH AND YOURS

Banning of Parler may be a step to contain right-wing fringe. But polarisation and echo chambers cut across platforms

IN THE TIME since Donald Trump was elected US president in 2016 — in fact, with the rise of “fake news” across the world a quote by former US senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan has been much cited: “You are entitled to your opinion, but you are not entitled to your own facts.” The fact, though, is that in the information age, everyone can create their own political reality. And the decision by Amazon, Google and Apple to suspend Parler, a microblogging app (similar to Twitter) favoured by the American far-right from their platforms is unlikely to change this trend.

Parler, with about 10 million users, does not allow cross-platform sharing and paints itself as absolutist on free speech — no posts are taken down or deleted, often even those that call for violence. The platform was used to share incendiary posts in the run-up to the January 6 violence at the Capitol building in Washington DC, and the lack of any protocols to address this led app stores hosted by tech giants to suspend Parler. The company's CEO has said that the platform's future is now uncertain.

Facebook and Twitter have suspended Trump's account — but only after years of incendiary statements. Even before the internet boom, the trend of catering to only a particular segment of the population, reinforcing their biases, had taken off. News channels in the US, and beyond, have cultivated particular political demographics and vitriol is often cast about in the guise of a prime-time “debate”. Behind this business model is the deeply cynical idea that facts, like soft drinks, are merely a product and “giving the people what they want” is good for bottom lines. Banning Parler and other relatively small sites like it may help to contain the fringe. But it's more likely the fringe will continue to move centrestage.



CHINMAYI ARUN

ON JANUARY 6, the world watched in shock as extremists stormed the United States Capitol to interrupt the Congress's joint session which was formalising Joe Biden's electoral victory. Shortly before the attack, at the “Save America March”, Donald Trump exhorted a crowd of his supporters to walk down to the Capitol to give “weak Republicans” the “boldness” to “take back” America. The video was shared on social media. Trump's social media accounts were active and communicating as his supporters ransacked the Capitol, stopping to pose for photographs in the Speaker's office and take selfies with policemen.

The social media companies reacted, first blocking particular communications including videos of the speech, and then suspending Trump's accounts. Trump has been barred from using Facebook and Twitter. The platform's decisions have been criticised. Broadly, critics argue that social media companies should not “censor” a president or make what conservatives see as politically biased decisions about speech. The latter claim wrongly assumes that all ideologically conservative speech is the same as harmful speech. Trump could have stopped at expressing dissatisfaction about the electoral outcome. However, he chose to insist that the election was “stolen”, calling for action. This took his speech beyond the realm of political opinion into the realm of incitement.

The fact that Trump is a head of state does mean that his incitement of violence needs to be treated differently. Social media would have enabled and amplified the incitement to violence through their platforms if they did not act to restrict the circulation of Trump's speech, given the connection between his words and the violence. If anything, they should have been vigilant and acted earlier. Social media companies have policies that are not sufficiently firm or clear on this question.

Although social media companies are private companies, they have a disproportionate impact on populations around the world. This is why experts including the former UN Special

Although social media companies are private companies, they have a disproportionate impact on populations around the world. This is why experts including the former UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, David Kaye, have argued that the platforms ought to follow international human rights law, especially the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Social media companies accept that they must take steps to ensure that they do not facilitate tragically extreme harm such as the Rohingya genocide in Myanmar. However, they also act as public fora for the important and difficult conversations that make a democracy.

Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, David Kaye, have argued that the platforms ought to follow international human rights law, especially the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Social media companies accept that they must take steps to ensure that they do not facilitate tragically extreme harm such as the Rohingya genocide in Myanmar. However, they also act as public fora for the important and difficult conversations that make a democracy.

The effect of a social media platform in facilitating the freedom of expression can vary depending on the speaker. A citizen journalist or whistleblower in a country without a functional, free press may have no other way to reach wide audiences if deprived of social media. In contrast, a head of state like Trump who is barred from social media has access to the mass media. His freedom of expression is not affected in the same way in which a protesting farmer or a whistleblower's might be, if they are de-platformed.

Similarly, the effects of communication can also vary depending on the speaker and the audiences. With the same content, an influential speaker is much more likely to actually incite violence. Therefore, incitement by a head of state is more dangerous than incitement by a powerless, ordinary individual. This is significant given that social media platforms are clear that they will act to remove incitement to violence from their platforms, especially where there is a real danger that violence will ensue. A powerful leader can persuade his followers that it is acceptable and even righteous to engage in violence. If this leader controls the law and order machinery, this creates a sense of impunity in those weakening the violence.

When Trump gave his speech, these factors had aligned.

Trump has arguably been inciting violence on social media platforms for a long time. In mid-2020, Facebook employees staged a virtual walkout in distress over the company refusing to regulate the US President's inflammatory posts. In the past, Twitter suspended another account posting copies of Trump's tweets for glorifying violence, while leaving the president's tweets up. This was presumably because of Twitter's exception for public or elected officials' speech which is seen as being in “public interest”. Facebook also has a “newsworthiness” exception. These exceptions pose a continuing problem for other countries that are still led by individuals who incite violence.

Once Trump was clearly on his way out, and his allies no longer controlled the Senate, the platforms stepped up to block his dangerous speech. Twitter's reasoning was that Trump incited violence to the extent that the public interest exception was no longer a good reason to leave his speech up. Facebook's reasoning was more ambiguous: Although it mentioned incitement to violence, it seemed to argue that the newsworthiness protection did not apply because of the exceptional circumstance of the insurrection and the post-electoral transfer of power.

The question to ask is: What happens the next time a world leader incites violence on these platforms? Facebook might leave their speech up, since it has left itself room to do so. Twitter might take it down, but it is not clear what counts as enough incitement for an elected official's account to be suspended. The platforms should not be circulating speech that is very likely to cause violence — they need clear policies in which they commit to a consistent refusal to help heads of state incite violence.

The writer is an affiliate of the Berkman Klein Center of Internet & Society at Harvard University



J V R PRASADA RAO

EARLY IN the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of people died in Iran after consuming toxic methanol, erroneously believing that it could cure them of the disease. The pandemic has seen waves of such misinformation, prompting the World Health Organisation to coin the term, “infodemic”.

Misinformation flows associated with mass immunisation programmes have been among the top hurdles for health systems for decades, risking the health of millions of children. What's different this time is the scale and the information environment. The pandemic in a hyperconnected world, where so much about the virus was unknown and so many people were anxious and fearful, took the deluge of misinformation to incredible levels.

Now as the COVID vaccines start rolling out, scaremongering is likely to soar as well. In fact, much before the jabs against the novel coronavirus had appeared on the horizon, there were conspiracy theories about vaccines being tailored to implant trackable microchips to steal information. As the prospect of the vaccines became more real, social media was abuzz with claims that the m-RNA technology being used by some vaccine-makers will alter the recipient's DNA.

Such misinformation should be countered with consistent and transparent sharing of science-based information about the vaccines in a language easily accessible to citizens, their families and communities. People have a right to know what's in the vaccine, how it will be administered, how it will work in the body, and what reactions or side-effects, if any they can expect, and how would

SHINE THE LIGHT

Transparency on vaccines is necessary, misinformation must be checked

those be addressed.

The COVID-19 inoculation drive is likely to involve the administration of more than one dose of the vaccine. It cannot, therefore, be treated as a “one-off” event. It's a journey from the time the individual registers for vaccination to the time he/she develops immunity. The safety of that journey for the first set of vaccinated people, who will share their experiences on social media and other platforms, will shape the decisions of millions others. This journey, even before it begins, will have many touchpoints for credible information which cannot be done solely by the government. The process should involve independent actors such as academia, civil-society organisations that have strong grass roots presence, philanthropy arms of large corporate houses and the private sector other than vaccine manufacturers. In fact, it will take nothing less than a society-based approach for the vaccination drive to succeed.

The government should emphasise in its messaging that “to go or not to go” for a COVID vaccine is a “voluntary” decision, that one has to take in the interest of one's health and that of their family. To present the decision as a “responsible choice”, and not as an imposition, will effectively kill the motivation of many rumour-mongers.

The country's victory over polio owes much to co-opting community leaders, civil society organisations and religious heads. Many of them enjoy high trust and credibility among people and have the unique ability to turn scientific messages into contextually-relevant information in the groups of their influence. While some religious leaders could

be sources of misinformation, many more are progressive and lean towards scientific and rational thinking. Such non-state actors should be involved in an alliance that can help in social mobilisation for COVID vaccination.

While these networks can help effectively reach socio-economically disadvantaged groups, and people in rural areas, a large section of population would also look up to credible experts through the mainstream media and on the internet to help them make decisions. Scientists and vaccine experts should play a proactive role in shaping the attitude of people. Industrial houses should become partners in disseminating science-based information to their employees, and through other mass-media channels.

It is also necessary for governments to be vigilant about isolated adverse incidents which cannot be ruled out in a programme of such magnitude. Adverse event monitoring should take place at the lowest level of the healthcare system and such cases should be given prompt medical and administrative attention.

Governments at the Centre and state-level are working on upscaling the cold-chain facilities and training an army of vaccinators. The leadership in the country will have to rise above their political and ideological differences. The national response to the mass vaccination drive is a rare opportunity for political leaders across party lines to close ranks and demonstrate that on issues pertaining to peoples' health they stand united. That will be a victory not just against the pandemic but for democracy as well.

The writer is a former Union Health Secretary



JANUARY 15, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

SAMASTIPUR FIRING

SIX UNDERTRIALS IN Samastipur were killed in police firing after three days of confrontation between them and the police. Soon after receiving news of the incident, Bihar Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra announced a judicial enquiry into the incident. Ten policemen were injured in stone throwing by the undertrials who had taken refuge on rooftops after locking some jail entrances to restrict the movement of the jail staff. The trouble started on January 12 when a group of undertrials led by one Gulzar Mian indiscriminately stoned the jail staff and police personnel who persuaded them to come down and “talk things over”.

In this incident, the sub-inspector of the Samastipur police thana, Shambu Sharan Singh Thakur sustained serious injuries. The undertrials were protesting against bad food, non-supply of warm clothing and ill-treatment by a jail jamadar.

US GIVES IN

THE US HAS agreed to deposit 70 per cent of frozen Iranian assets in Algeria, undertaken to return the late Shah's wealth to Iran and suspend legal claims against Iran, according to Tehran Radio. The radio suggested that the US has already returned 70 per cent of frozen Iranian assets but more clarity on that is awaited. It suggested that the Iranian author-

ities had accepted the American compromise and an end to the hostage crisis is at hand.

RAJIV STILL IN IA

RAJIV GANDHI, A pilot with the Indian Airlines, has not yet resigned from his job. Nor is any action being contemplated against him for participating in Congress (I) activities. According to No 10 of the orders Indian Airlines service rules no employee can participate in the activities of a communal organisation or a political party. Rajiv, who gained the Boeing 737 pilot licence last month, has been openly participating in Congress (I) activities after being behind the scenes for some months.

THE IDEAS PAGE

A new global playbook

The liberal world order is yet to free itself from imperial bias, as a report that dubs India a ‘difficult’ country reveals. India can push for a less hierarchical version of internationalism



KATE SULLIVAN DE ESTRADA

ON JANUARY 11, Robin Niblett, Director and Chief Executive of Chatham House, the century-old UK-based policy institute also known as the Royal Institute of International Affairs, published a report proposing a blueprint for Britain's future foreign policy after Brexit. Titled “Global Britain, Global Broker”, the report sketches a bold path ahead for the UK, arguing that post Brexit, Britain can remain internationally influential. Curiously, however, the report gives exceedingly short shrift to India, one of the non-European countries most touted to feature prominently in Boris Johnson's vision of a “Global Britain”.

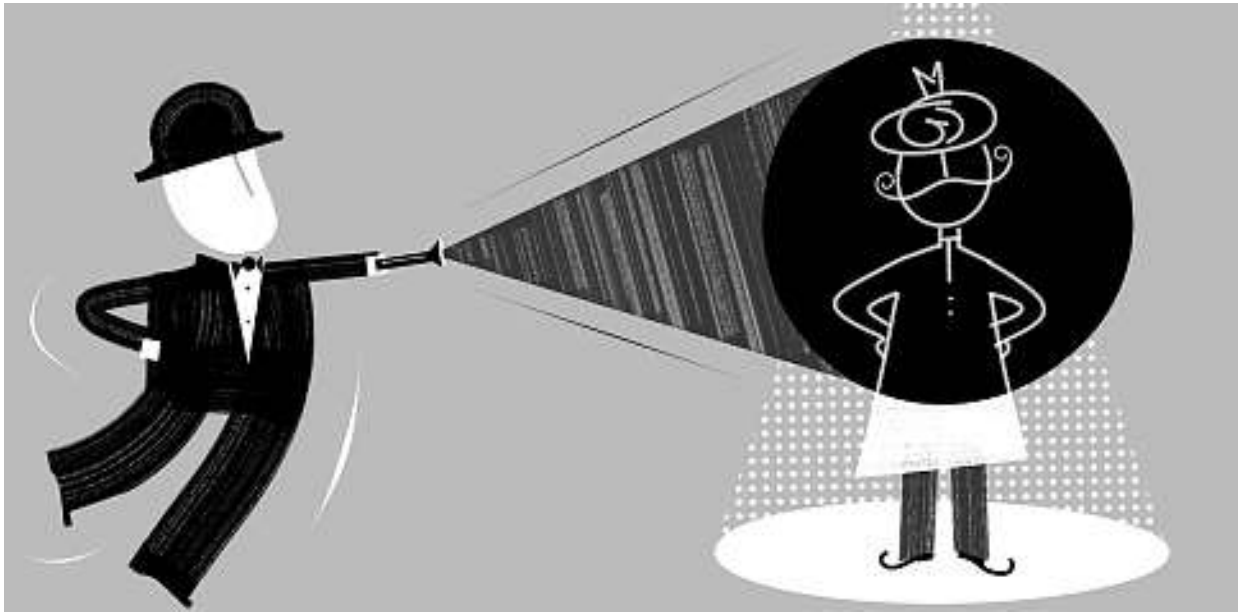
Most strikingly, the Chatham House report groups India on the other side of a “new divide in international affairs — between open societies where citizens have the capacity to fight for their rights and those where these rights are denied”. Along with Russia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, India is classed as one of the “difficult four” countries, destined to count among the UK's “rivals” or “awkward counterparts” as it pursues its global goals. Being clubbed together in such company will shock many for its stark contrast with the position of growing importance that Western governments from Washington to Canberra accord to India, in particular, in conjunction with the emerging and implicitly liberal construct of the Indo-Pacific.

The report should be kept in perspective — it is after all, in no way a statement on behalf of the UK government. In fact, its advice to deal cautiously with India stands in diametric opposition to Downing Street's current tack on the bilateral relationship. But Chatham House is an institution of consequence in the UK and Western policy landscape, and the report's recommendations demand close scrutiny. The wider portrait that it sketches of a contemporary liberal international order is particularly significant.

First, it is clear that the report's move of labelling India “difficult” is bound up with quite specific ideas about status and hierarchy in world politics. The report's author places India and other countries in a different normative universe to the “liberal West” and then confers unequal status upon them.

Part of the justification for labelling India “difficult” centres on a critique of India's domestic political developments. The report notes how “the overt Hindu nationalism of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party is weakening the rights of Muslims and other minority religious groups, leading to a chorus of concern that intolerant majoritarianism is replacing the vision of a secular, democratic India bequeathed by Nehru”. This is no trivial observation and it should surprise no one, least of all the Indian government. Behind closed doors across North Atlantic and European capitals, diplomatic concerns — usually unspoken in public — have been bubbling since 2014 about growing religious and other forms of intolerance and the suppression of critique and dissent in India's domestic space.

Yet the report's second justification for rec-



CR Sasikumar

ommending an arm's length relationship with India demands scrutiny, too, and not just by Indians (regardless of their support for the current government) but by anyone keen to see an end to the inequalities of our contemporary, hierarchical world order. Predictably, the report advocates that the UK move to support democracies in the Asia-Pacific region as a means to aid these countries in avoiding political subservience to China. When it comes to India, however, the report prescribes caution: India is a reluctant supporter of liberal democracy, is “ambivalent” about human rights abuses within other states, and possesses “a long and consistent record of resisting being corralled into a ‘Western’ camp”. These black marks against India echo with a well-worn Western liberal playbook, fraught with disappointment that India, despite being the world's largest democracy, is a weak liberal ally in the international political sphere. It should be noted that this (Western) framing of India as an ambivalent supporter of liberal principles and institutions abroad pre-dates the current Indian leadership by decades. India, along with other non-Western rising democracies, so the familiar charge goes, has long been unwilling to step up on the global stage to the responsibilities of “committed democracies”.

Rather than framing India's ambivalent relationship with the international liberal order as a disappointing deviation from a superior European model (ironically, the model the UK has in part turned away from through Brexit), we might look more closely at how the international order of the early 21st century remains grounded on the myth of the formal equality and sovereignty of states. As Adom Getachew has argued in her brilliant and paradigm-shifting book *Worldmaking after Empire*, today's international order remains an uneven playing field — a place of institutionalised structural hierarchy comprising “processes of integration and interaction that produce unevenly distributed rights, obligations, and burdens”. Post-colonial, non-Western states, even increasingly powerful states such as India, still do not enjoy full political and economic independence in how they make decisions at home, nor in their efforts to shape the agendas of international institutions. If this sounds fantastical to Indian ears in 2021, speak to an Indian representative working in almost any international institution, from the United Nations to Bretton Woods, and ask them if they feel constrained in their foreign

The Chatham House report itself concedes that India's importance to the UK is ‘inescapable’, and it is clear that no nation today can move forward without factoring in India. The next two years will see India move into a critical period of high-profile international activity, both as an elected member of the UN Security Council and as host of the 2023 G20 Summit. India can leverage these positions of influence to centre a more demanding vision of internationalism that disrupts the civilisational and racialised hierarchies that linger from Europe's imperial era.

policy choices and self-representations, and by whom. Pick up a copy of Hardeep Singh Puri's *Perilous Interventions*, or even Shyam Saran's *How India sees the World*.

For post-colonial states, sovereignty after independence, far from only being about political and economic independence within state borders, intended to go hand in hand with the project of “worldmaking”: The shaping of international legal, political and economic institutions that realise the internationalist project that Getachew calls “nondominant”. This collective project saw some early successes, but then dwindled into failure. Full and equal membership of the international order remains, as Getachew skillfully shows, hampered by hierarchy and marked by forms of dependence and domination. Former Indian foreign secretary and national security advisor Shivshankar Menon captures this reality succinctly: For him, encouragement by (presumably Western) international partners for India to “behave responsibly” usually means “do[ing] what they would like us to do”.

What can be done to resist and challenge the implicit and explicit conceptions of status and hierarchy in the Chatham House report? Getachew cautions against “a retreat into a defensive sovereigntist position, which cannot provide adequate critical and normative resources to address the contemporary dilemmas of the international order”.

The Chatham House report itself concedes that India's importance to the UK is “inescapable”, and it is clear that no nation today can move forward without factoring in India. The next two years will see India move into a critical period of high-profile international activity, both as an elected member of the UN Security Council and as host of the 2023 G20 Summit. India can leverage these positions of influence to centre a more demanding vision of internationalism that disrupts the civilisational and racialised hierarchies that linger from Europe's imperial era. But to do that, India needs the critical and normative resources to inspire greater equality, legitimacy and inclusivity in the international sphere. For as long as India practises domination at home, those resources, desperately needed to push through urgent reforms of the global order, will be clear to no one — as the Chatham House report, for all its problems, succeeds in showing.

The writer is Associate Professor, International Relations of South Asia, University of Oxford

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“For their part, the Taliban must join the political process. If their violent actions continue, it is highly unlikely that an intra-Afghan peace process can succeed.” — DAWN

Healer in chief

As President, Biden must reach out to divided US. He can establish new conventions



G BALACHANDRAN

AMERICAN SOCIETY IS undergoing tumultuous changes. In the recent presidential election, the nation seemed to be divided. Some 75 million voted for Donald Trump notwithstanding his various illegal acts and incendiary language in characterising those opposed to him. Some seven million more voted for Joe Biden, whose victory has been denied by Trump and his supporters. On January 6, a mob stormed the Capitol in a bid to deny Biden his victory, reminiscent of a similar storming of the Capitol by the British in 1814.

After the assault on the Capitol, there is palpable anger in the US against President Trump. However, recent polls show that while most Americans, including many Trump supporters, reject the attack on the Capitol, millions empathise with the mob. And according to press reports, the FBI has warned about the possibility of armed protests at all 50 state capitols and in Washington, D.C., ahead of Biden's January 20 inauguration.

Biden has been lukewarm on the issue of impeachment although he has called for Trump's resignation. Vice President Mike Pence too has been, at best, lukewarm about the application of the 25th amendment. The prospects of Trump being removed from office by noon January 20 are very slim. However on June 20, the Democrats will gain control of the Senate and with a majority in the House of Representatives, the prospects of an impeachment trial in the Senate thereafter are high although a conviction on that trial is again very slim.

Biden's reluctance to actively support Trump's impeachment is understandable. His administration will have many immediate problems to attend to — controlling and neutralising the pandemic through an active vaccination programme, passing legislation to give monetary relief to those affected by the pandemic and energising the economy. Plus, there will be the immediate issue of bringing together a strongly divided nation. For Biden, it is important that his administration carry as much of the Senate as also the public with his programmes to restore some semblance of stability not only to American society but to the country's global standing as well.

No doubt, President-elect Biden and Vice-President elect Kamala Harris would have already thought deeply over these matters. Probably dozens of drafts of Biden's inaugural speech are being constantly revised to incorporate his desire to unify the country. However, it is also undeniable that Biden is not known for his oratory and in addition, the country will be keenly awaiting his first action to translate his desire to unite the country in practice.

Here, there is a parallel in history worth mentioning.

Apartheid in South Africa ended in 1994 after Nelson Mandela won the first election

in which Blacks had the right to vote. He assumed the presidency of a country deeply divided with the national party's F W de Klerk as his first deputy. However, large sections of Blacks, who had been dominated politically, socially and economically for decades clamoured for revenge. The statesman that Mandela was, he understood the implications. A rainbow nation, he realised, was the only way forward to ensure prosperity in South Africa.

In 1995, South Africa hosted the World Rugby Cup for the first time. Rugby was a game that was played predominantly by the whites. When Mandela learnt that South Africa would be hosting the World Cup, he came up with a brilliant idea, not fully shared by his colleagues, to use rugby to unite the country. (It was the subject of a book *Playing the Enemy* and a movie, *Invictus*). When the Springboks won the finals against New Zealand, wearing the Springboks colours and green cap, Mandela surprised the team before the game by visiting them in their locker room and later beaming as he presented the captain with the trophy in the big stadium filled to its capacity. It went a long way towards the realisation of his dream of uniting the country. It was an act of spontaneity, unrehearsed and unanticipated that broke the barrier between the whites and the Blacks to some extent.

Can Biden, who is known to act spontaneously and generously in his dealings with individuals, do a similar thing to bridge the gap between the Democrats and the moderate Republicans? Something that will psychologically assure them that he is sincere in his belief and efforts to unite the country.

President Trump has indicated that he will not attend the inauguration of the Biden presidency in a sharp break with tradition. Also traditionally on the inauguration day, before the ceremony, the outgoing President with his wife invite the incoming President and the Vice President and their spouses for tea. The event is also attended by the outgoing Vice President and his/her spouse. After that, the outgoing President accompanies the incoming President for the inauguration ceremony. That will not happen this year.

But the fact that the outgoing President is breaking time honoured tradition and convention need not preclude the incoming President from establishing a new convention that will go some way towards restoring the traditional working relationship with the Republican legislators and moderate Republicans who do not owe personal loyalty to Trump.

While there has been no precedent, there is nothing to prevent Vice President Pence from inviting incoming President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, along with their spouses for tea, and then accompanying incoming President Biden for the inauguration. It will be a significant gesture on the part of both Vice President Pence and incoming President Biden, not allowing protocol to stand in the way of healing American society's wounds.

How such an outcome can come about and who will be the catalyst to bring this about is for the American public to decide.

A foreign well-wisher of the US and its ideals and principles can only offer suggestions.

The writer was previously with the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, Delhi



RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA

A great trust deficit

Centre's divisive campaign will only deepen impasse with farmers

IN THE SEVEN years of mediocre governance marked by institutional capture, propaganda politics, unprecedented economic mismanagement and unaccountability, the Narendra Modi government is faced with perhaps its greatest challenge yet: India's farmers have rallied together once again, asking for the most basic of guarantees and the repeal of the three agrarian laws that they neither asked for nor support. These three laws, brought in by ordinances in the middle of the pandemic and passed without any prior consultation, debate or discussion, are catastrophic in their implications. Specifically, they foreshadow the complete erosion of the guarantee of Minimum Support Price (“MSP” for agricultural produce) and the thoughtless dismantling of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees while leaving small farmers vulnerable to larger private players and lobbies motivated purely by self-interest. A direct consequence would be a dismantling of the public distribution system (PDS) or the guarantee to provide foodgrains through ration shops to the country's disadvantaged. There are several other problems as well, such as those of bypassing judicial remedies of going to court for redressal. They also grossly encroach upon the exclusive legislative competence of state governments to legislate on agriculture. However, at the core of the current im-

passe between farmers and the Modi government lies a massive trust deficit cultivated over seven years of broken promises, manipulated data and outright neglect.

Barely a month into its first tenure, the Modi government directed that the payment of bonus on MSP to farmers in key agrarian states be cancelled. This was followed by the repeal of the Right to Fair Compensation Act brought in by the UPA in 2013 to ensure market price for acquired land. In a surprise to no one but the Modi government, this move was met with nationwide protests, which led to the PM announcing in his radio broadcast that the amendments would be repealed. The fact that these amendments were snuck in through state laws in BJP-ruled states deepened this lack of trust.

Then came the denial of fixing the MSP at cost plus 50 per cent. While this was a key election promise in 2014 and was present in the BJP's election manifesto, the Modi government in an affidavit before the Supreme Court denied this, saying fixing MSP at cost plus 50 per cent would distort the market. The farmer obviously felt cheated. In the 10 years between 2004 and 2014, MSP for key agricultural produce had increased by a minimum of 121 per cent (in the case of chickpeas) to as high as 219 per cent (in the case of moong dal). And this was in addition to a massive farm loan waiver of almost Rs 72,000 crore and income support from the MGN-

REGA. Compare this to the last six years, where the highest increase has barely been sufficient to cover increased production costs.

Another much-advertised programme — the Crop Insurance Scheme of 2016 — saw insurance companies making a profit of Rs 19,202 crore (as of last year) after paying compensation to the farmers, as governments and farmers ended up paying high premiums.

Blanketed by these challenges, it is no surprise that the country saw a sharp increase in farmer suicides. What was even more surprising is that these prompted almost no outreach from the Union Cabinet, much less the prime minister.

The yawning trust gap is, thus, writ large. After all, if one cannot take the PM's word at face value, then what else matters? This is the same Hon'ble PM who now assures the farmers that the new laws will not impact the MSP guarantee.

In response to the current protests, the Modi government reverted to its tried-and-tested tactic — sowing seeds of division and questioning the credibility of the suffering farmers. With a pliable section of the media at its command, the BJP machinery carried out a relentless and systematic campaign of defamation and propaganda. However, they learnt, much to their consternation, that labelling genuine protestors as Naxals and Khalistanis, Chinese and Pakistan agents cut

no ice. It had the exact opposite impact than intended. Public sentiment rallied in favour of our “annadatas”.

On January 12, the Supreme Court intervened to stay the implementation of these laws but also established a committee composed solely of individuals who have declared their support for the bills and opposed the farmers, calling their protest misguided and going to the extent of blaming Opposition parties. The question is: Can anything meaningful fructify from discussions with a committee, whose members already support the government stance on three agrarian laws and oppose the farmers? This is unlikely to address the growing chasm of distrust that the Modi government continues to foment with its campaign of division and smokescreens.

The BJP is not a fan of India's history. This is in large part because of its own unflattering role of concessions and absences from the crucial moments in our journey towards Independence. This might be one instance where the party would do well to revisit the chronicles of farmers' movements. They would learn that farmers have never backed down. And, ultimately, they have always prevailed.

The writer is communications in-charge and general secretary of the Indian National Congress

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BETTER PLANNING

This refers to the article, ‘Getting the vaccine right’, (IE January 14). The vaccination drive is soon going to be announced but there are many concerns which have not been addressed yet. The after-effects of the vaccine in different groups of individuals is not known. There is also a lack of sufficient data determining the efficacy rate of the vaccine. The free availability of vaccine is going to be a burden on the government. Those who can afford it could have been given vaccines on reasonable rates. Better research and well-thought-out strategy should have been formulated for effective implementation.

Sarachana Sisodia, Delhi

WITHOUT DEBATE

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘A shapeshifting justice’ (IE, January 13). The three farm laws missed out on substantive scrutiny in the legislature. This aberration of shortening of the essential political process made a section of the civil society more cautious about the intentions of the newly-enacted legislation, as they felt their voices and apprehensions weren't properly echoed by their legislators. This inconsistency in following the due political process by the legislative and the executive branch has actually invited judicial intervention to restore popular faith in the institutions of the state.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● WHY CLOUD KITCHENS TURNED DARK: ABHISHEK SANWARIA, NIKHIL KEDIA AND AKSHAYA VIJAYALAKSHMI

● FOR A SMARTER FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME: VIJAY AVINANDAN, ALOK MISHRA, SUBHAM AWASTHI

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BEYOND COVID

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Care and caution’ (IE, January 14). The country is plagued by a trust deficit. Farmers don't trust the government, the public is sceptical about the efficacy of the vaccines and how they are being rolled out. So far, the entire vaccination drive of the government is a black box. It also appears that the pandemic has been blown out of proportion as non-COVID mortality and morbidity outnumber deaths from the novel coronavirus.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Zaheeda Parveen W/o Salimuddin R/o Flat No-A-20/160, DDA Flats Interlok Sarai Rohilla Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Zahida Parveen for all purposes. 0040559521-1

I, Vinay Kumar S/o Kishori Lal R/o-House.No-B-12 First-Floor Mansa-Ram Park Uttam Nagar Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Vinay Sharma Permanently 0040560219-1

I Gulab Singh S/o Late Sh. Roop Ram R/o V-7, Welcome, Seelampur-3, North East, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Nanak for all purposes. 0040560213-6

I Neha Pandey D/o Sh. Shriram Pandey W/o Sh. Atul Mishra R/o H.No.1202, Shivajik Apartment, Kaushambi, E.E.Sahibabad, S.O., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 have changed my name after marriage to Neha Mishra for all purposes. 0040560213-5

I Prashant Sharma S/O Satbir Sharma R/O -36/18 Arya samaj road gali no 1 Rajeev Colony Narela Delhi 110040 Have changed My Name From Parshant Sharma to Prashant Sharma for all Puposies in future. 0050174070-1

I, Alok Mishra R/o F-5, Tower-6, Type-V Quarters, East Kewdwar Nagar, New Delhi-110023, have changed my minor daughter's name from Punya Mishra to Eshanya Mishra permanently. 0040560256-2

I, Ankur Kumar S/o Late Sh. Bhopal Singh R/o Flat No. 4157, Tower-12, Gold Coast, Crossing Republic, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201016. Have changed my name from Ankur Kumar to Ankur Chauhan for all future purposes. 0040560193-1

I, Geeta Gulati, W/o- Naresh Sehgal, H.no.27/24, dfc colony Partap nagar rohtak haryana-124001, changed my name to Geeta Sehgal. 0040560254-2

I, INDU MATI W/o Kewal Ram R/o House No- C. 19, 2nd Floor, Ashok Enclave Part-2, Amannagar, Faridabad, Haryana-121003 Have Changed my Name to INDU MATI KHANSHIL for all purposes. 0070727266-1

I, Inder Mohan Singh S/o-Nihal Singh R/o:E-7, Lower Ground Floor, Vijay Nagar, Single Storey, G.T.B.Nagar, New Delhi-9 have changed my name to Inder Mohan Singh Sandhu 0040560241-2

I, Naresh, S/o- Darshan Lal, H.no.27/24, dfc colony Partap nagar rohtak haryana-124001, changed my name to Naresh Sehgal. 0040560254-1

I, Punita Manwar, W/O Puneet Manwar, Address:Orchid Petals, Tower-16 flat-401, Gurgaon, Haryana-121018, changed my name to Punita Malhotra. 0040560254-3

I, Pushpa Devi (Widow of Shiv Narain who Died on 14.12.2018), Resident of 102-A, Dabar Enclave, Jaffarpur Kalan, New Delhi-110073 declare that both the names SHIV NARAYAN Son of LAYAK RAM and SHIV NARAIN Son of LAYAK RAM are of one and the same person. He will be known as SHIV NARAIN Son of LAYAK RAM in future for all purposes. 0040560131-1

I, Rahul Mittal s/o Harish Mittal r/o 106, 19/41, West Punjab Bagh, Delhi-110026 have changed my minor daughter's name from VANNYA MITTAL to VAANYA MITTAL 0040560218-1

I, SWETA AGRAWAL W/O Nitin Agrawal R/o B-12/B, First Floor, Kakaji, New Delhi-19 have changed my name to Shwetaa Agrawal for all future purposes. 0040560194-1

I, hitherto known as J. P. Ali S/o-Jamshed Ali residing at 892, Pasonda, Sahibabad Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Junaid Pakir Ali. 0040560256-1

I, Rekha Spouse of 685540L-JWO, Mukesh Kumar Sharma, R/o T-06, Flat No.805, Exotica Dreamville, Sector-16C, Gaur City, Noida, U.P., have changed my name from Rekha to Rekha Sharma, vide affidavit No.24AE397836, dated-05.01.2021, Noida. 0040560257-10

I, Nawraj Bhagat, S/O-Late Shri Dal Chand, R/O-H-1/193-194, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085, inform that Nawraj/Nawraj Singh/Chauhan/Nawraj Bhagat above my names written in various documents are of mine and of the same person. 0040560257-7

I, Mohammed Sajid Hussain S/o-Mohammad Zahid Hussain R/o-9/358, Gali No-19, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Sajid hussain permanently. 0040560256-5

I, Manav S/o Anil Kumar R/o Flat No-100, New GH-6 White Apartment, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Manav Sharma. 0040560257-11

I, Kuldeep Kaur W/O-Nirmal Singh R/o-X/277, Gali No-1, Raghubar Pura No-1, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031 have changed my name to Kuldeep Kaur. 0040560257-4

I, Manav S/o Anil Kumar R/o Flat No-100, New GH-6 White Apartment, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Manav Sharma. 0040560257-11

I, Kuldeep Kaur W/O-Nirmal Singh R/o-X/277, Gali No-1, Raghubar Pura No-1, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031 have changed my name to Kuldeep Kaur. 0040560257-4

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PUBLIC NOTICE
"Know all men by these presents that my clients Meena Verma, W/o. Late Sh. Subhash Chander, R/o. House No.399-400, Gali Mala Wali, "Tel Wara, Delhi-110006 has severed all her relations with her son Nikhil Lodhi and his wife Smt. Bhawna both are residing separately, thereby debarrred and disowned them from all her moveable and immovable properties and my client shall not be liable for any act and omission done by them, if any person deal with them, he/she shall do the same at their own risks, costs and responsibilities and my client and her other family members shall not be liable for the same".
Sd/-
(VEER SINGH) ADVOCATE
Ch. No. B-5, Behind Court Room No. 31, Near Police Post,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to the public at large that my client Mrs. RITU KARIA wants to purchase the H.I. Flat No.113, upper Ground Floor, situated in the Layout plan of Vikas Vihar C.G.H.S. known as GANGOTRI APARTMENTS, Vikas Puri, New Delhi from Mrs. Sarodini Chandra W/o. Krishna Ram Oberoi no 113, GANGOTRI APARTMENTS, VIKAS PURI, NEW DELHI, she has acquired the said flat by virtue of Registered GR Deed executed by Sh. KRISHAN KUMAR OBEROI S/o Late Sh. Sant Ram Oberoi, as no. 111,114, in Addl. Book No. 1, Volume No. 5475, on Pages 165 to 169, dated 27.08.2020, in the office of the S.R.H.B. Janak Puri, New Delhi. If anyone has any objection in respect of sale/purchase of the above said flat may contact and raise objection to Adv. Rakesh Kumar, CH. No.556, Dwarika Court Complex, Dwarika, N.D.-75

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client Smt. Gurinder Kaur Sabarwal W/o Sh. Tarinder Singh Sabarwal R/O C-18/6, Third Floor, Jay Enclave Extn. Tikar Nagar, New Delhi-16 has severed all her relations from her son Sh. Baldeep Singh, his wife Smt. Sonia, their daughter Kirni, their legal heirs & associates, disowned & debarrred all of them from all her moveable & immovable properties with immediate effect because of harassment, torture, cruelty & atrocities committed by them against my client. Any person dealing with them, shall be doing so at their own risk, cost & consequences. My client shall not be responsible in any manner for the same.
Advocate A. K. Verma
319, DC, Janakpuri

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is notified for all that my client "Dukhi Singh" S/o. Shri Mahavir Singh R/O. P-167, Pillanji village, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi-110023 is also known as "Devender Singh" so take note that Dukhi Singh & Devender Singh is the same person.
Satish Kumar Tripathi (Advocate)
Ch. No. 549, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi-110017

I, Paras Ram S/o, Mangaru R/o, H.No.-128/4, Block-I, Gali No-7, Hari Nagar Extn., Jaitpur, Badarpur, N.D-44 declare that my father's name has been wrongly written as "Bhura" in my "CISF Service Records". While my father's correct name is "Mangaru", which may be amended accordingly. "MANGARU" & "BHURA" are the name of same and single person.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring of the knowledge of general public that my client Lt. Col. (Retd.) Dr. J.C. Khanna S/o Late Sh. Darban Lal Khanna R/o 183, Sirmant, Nangla Butto, Meerut, U.P. is sole owner of the above said property. Any person, organization, institution dealing or entertaining into any transaction/ agreement w.r.t. purchase of the above said property shall be doing at his/her own risk, cost, responsibility and consequences, for which my client shall not be responsible in any manner whatsoever.
Sd/-
ANIL KUMARI (RADHIKA) ADVOCATE
157, Pocket B-1, LOK NAYAK PURA, BAKKARWALA, NEW DELHI-110041 (M: 8750126788)

PUBLIC NOTICE
"My clients Smt. Shashi Sadana W/O Lt. Sh. Ashok Kumar Sadana, R/O H.No.- 685, First Floor, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar North West Delhi, Delhi-110009, have severed all relationships with their son Deepak Sadana and his wife Smt. Kadambini Bahni and have discovered/debarrred them from all the moveable and immovable properties, for all times to come.
My clients shall not be responsible for the acts, deeds and things, if any done by their son namely Deepak Sadana and his wife Smt. Kadambini Bahni, as my clients have nothing to do with their business, liabilities, debts and acts what so ever, and any persons dealing with him will be responsible and accountable and will do at their own risk, cost and consequences for the same".
Sd/- NEERAJ RANA (Advocate)
Chamber no. 429, Rohini Court, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
On instructions from Sh. Ramesh Gupta & Mrs. Mamta Gupta, the public at large is hereby notified that land measuring 15 biswas out of kharsa no. 2/22/1 min and land measuring 10 biswas out of kharsa no. 2/22/1 min and land measuring 4 biswas out of kharsa no. 2/22/1 min 04 situated in revenue estate of Hamidpur under Alipur Block is the subject matter of sale agreement between Sh. Ramesh Gupta S/o Sh. S.C. Gupta & Mamta Gupta W/o Sh. Ramesh Gupta, both resident of I-51, Ashok Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-52 and one Sh. Rakesh Kapoor S/o Charanjeev Kapoor resident of S-42, Pitampura, Delhi-34 in respect of which the said Sh. Ramesh Gupta and Mrs. Mamta Gupta have already made part payment of the sale consideration to the tune of more than 50% and therefore said Rakesh Kapoor is legally deemed to convey the said land to said Sh. Ramesh Gupta & Mamta Gupta. However, said Rakesh Kapoor is trying to backout and sell the same land to some other persons(s) which will be totally illegal. Therefore, the public at large is notified that no body should try to enter into any transaction of sale and purchase of the said land from said Sh. Rakesh Kapoor. If done so, the purchaser shall be wholly responsible and the transaction will be illegal as said Sh. Rakesh Kapoor is legally bound to convey the said land to aforesaid Sh. Ramesh Gupta & Mrs. Mamta Gupta.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the public at large that Shri Omkar Seth S/o Late Shri Bhagwan Dass is a original allottee & Title holder in continuous and uninterrupted possession of DDA Built up freehold property bearing Flat No. 53/1 Ground Floor, Block-B-7, Sadajpura Enclave New Delhi, herein after referred to as scheduled property vide Conveyance deed dated 24.06.2002 in registered as Doc No. 2381, Book No. 116/Lt. No. 773/135-153 on 25.06.2002 in office of the sub registrar VI New Delhi, that the original allotment Letter dated 21.02.1989, possession letter dated 03.06.1989, N.O. for Water/Electricity dated 03.06.1989 and Possession Slip as issued by DDA in favour of Shri Omkar Seth w.r.t. the scheduled property have been lost/destroyed in lieu of which F.R dated 13.01.2021 with Delhi Police bearing LR No.35751/2021 have been filed. Therefore, any person company, authority, society, organization, financial institution/Bank etc. Have any knowledge of the above mentioned lost document or having any claim right title interest/possession etc in the scheduled property, by way of ownership succession inheritance, sale, mortgage, exchange, change, lien, GR, Trust, encumbrance, etc. may come forward with supporting document to be delivered to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this publication, post expiration of which any claim or objection if raised or received, shall be treated as null and void and shall be treated as waived and the title holder shall proceed to complete the transaction of availing loan on the schedule property from the State Bank of India.

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ECONOMIC REVIEW

Women’s participation in economic activities up in Kerala

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 14

WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION in economic activities has increased considerably in Kerala, largely driven by self-employment and casual labour, especially in rural areas, according to the Economic Review 2020 tabled in the assembly by state Finance Minister Thomas Isaac on Thursday.

Quoting the periodic labour force survey, the Economic Review said female workforce participation rate in Kerala grew to 20.4 per cent in 2018-19 from 16.4 per cent in 2017-18. The workforce participation rate is defined as “the percentage of persons in the labour force among the persons in the population”.

“This is the first time that women in Kerala are more actively participating in economic activities than their counterparts at all-India level,” the Economic Review said. The women in the state have a higher participation rate than that of all-India average in all age groups, except the age group of 15-29 (a chunk in this group could be pursuing education), it said.

Though both male and female labour force participation rate (LFPR) and work participation rate (WPR) increased, the increase in women LFPR and WPR is more evident.

The Economic Review attributed the increase in women’s participation in economic activities to increase in self-employment and casual labour. It said this was possible due to the special emphasis on NREGA, the state’s Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme and the self-employment opportunities promoted through micro/nano enterprises to provide remunerative work to women in the post-2018 flood recovery phase.

Due to the unprecedented floods and landslides of August 2018 and 2019, and the 2020 pandemic, the budgets of the last three years have focused on livelihood revival/rebuilding, giving more priority to women, the Economic Review said.

Despite resource constraints, the government focuses on women’s employment with a big thrust in particular on women entrepreneurship, both agro-based and non-agro based, traditional and non-traditional, it said.

Ramani’s lawyers built imaginary story: Akbar to court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

FORMER UNION Minister M J Akbar, who has filed a criminal defamation case against journalist Priya Ramani over allegations of sexual misconduct and harassment, through his lawyers told a Delhi court on Thursday that Ramani’s lawyers built an “imaginary story in their defence”.

The submissions were made by senior advocate Geeta Luthra on behalf of Akbar before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Pandey. Her rebuttal could not be completed and will be heard again on January 18.

Luthra told the court, “They have built an imaginary story in their defence. They say Vogue article has two parts and only the first part pertains to M J Akbar. There is no credit, attribution in the second part.” She was referring to Ramani’s article in the magazine in which she wrote about alleged sexual harassment at workplace.

Later, with several other women making similar allegations against him, Akbar resigned as Minister of State for External Affairs in October 2018.

On Ramani’s tweet with respect to his resignation, Luthra told the court, “I have shown her contradictions. In notice, cross examination of Mr Akbar, she says it’s the truth. Then she says there is no enquiry. What is the sense of responsibility? She’s saying as if it was a victory. But it’s not victory, it’s vindictive-ness.”

IndiGo staffer’s killing: Cops probe business angle

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JANUARY 14

INDIGO executive Rupesh Singh also worked as a liaisoner for contractors and it is being investigated if he was targeted by someone whose business interest was hurt

because of him, police sources have told *The Indian Express*.

Singh (38) was shot dead on Tuesday outside his residence in Patna. The Opposition has targeted the Nitish Kumar government over the incident.

“Singh was well connected with important people in poli-

tics and bureaucracy and would work as a liaisoner between contractors and people with influence in energy, water resources and rural works departments. We are trying to find if he was targeted by anyone whose business interest was hurt,” said a police source.

HC to Amethi cops: No coercive action against interfaith couple

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 14

THE ALLAHABAD High Court has ordered Amethi police not to take any coercive action against an interfaith couple, married for the last three years and having a

child from the wedlock, under the anti-conversion ordinance.

The Lucknow Bench of the High Court put the restraint on police on a plea by the Amethi-based couple alleging harassment by the local police under the provisions of new law.

The Bench also sought the

stand of the state on the couple’s plea.

The petitioners’ lawyer, A K Pandey, alleged that couple was married three years ago and also have a child but after the promulgation of the stringent anti-conversion ordinance, the police have been harassing them on the

basis of an FIR lodged by the woman’s family.

The couple said in their petition that the woman’s parents had lodged an FIR with the police accusing the husband and others of his family of kidnapping their daughter for marriage.



OUR FALLEN HEROES IN THE YEAR 2020

| RANK | NAME | ARMS/SERVICES |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| COLONEL | B SANTOSH BABU | INFANTRY |
| CAPTAIN | ASHUTOSH KUMAR | INFANTRY |
| SUBEDAR | SANJIV KUMAR | INFANTRY |
| SUBEDAR | SUKHOV SINGH | INFANTRY |
| SUBEDAR | YAMUNA PRASAD PANERU | INFANTRY |
| SUBEDAR | RAM RATAN KUMAR | INFANTRY |
| SUBEDAR | SWATANTRA SINGH | INFANTRY |
| NAIB SUBEDAR | KRISHNA BAHADUR BHANDARI | INFANTRY |
| NAIB SUBEDAR | ANIL KUMAR | INFANTRY |
| NAIB SUBEDAR | NUDURAM SOREN | INFANTRY |
| NAIB SUBEDAR | RAJWINDER SINGH | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | SANDEEP SINGH PARIHAR | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | DEVENDRA SINGH | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | RAJENDRA SINGH | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | GOKARAM SINGH | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | DIPAK KARKI | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | MATHIAZHAGAN P | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | RAMESH BAHUGUNA | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | SAMBUR GURUNG | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | SHIVENDRA SINGH GURJAR | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | SUNIL KUMAR | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | KULDIP SINGH | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | DIWAN CHAND | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | SHAMSHER SINGH | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | CH PRAVEEN KUMAR | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | PATIL SANGRAM SHIVAJI | INFANTRY |
| HAVILDAR | ANIL KUMAR TOMAR | INFANTRY |
| NAIK | MANDLE PRADIP SAHEBRAO | INFANTRY |
| NAIK | PREM KUMAR KHATRI | INFANTRY |
| NAIK | RAJEEV SINGH SHEKHAWAT | INFANTRY |
| NAIK | GURCHARAN SINGH | INFANTRY |
| NAIK | RAJWINDER SINGH | INFANTRY |
| NAIK | ANEESH THOMAS | INFANTRY |
| NAIK | SATAI BHUSHAN RAMESHRAO | INFANTRY |

| RANK | NAME | ARMS/SERVICES |
|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| NAIK | RAJAN KUMAR | INFANTRY |
| NAIK | CHITTE SURESH GORAKH | INFANTRY |
| NAIK | SHANKAR SINGH MERHA | INFANTRY |
| NAIK | JOGENDRA SINGH SOLANKI | INFANTRY |
| LANCE NAIK | RAJ SINGH | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | RYADA MAHESHWAR | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | DESHMUKH YASH | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | RATTAN SINGH | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | RAHUL RAINSWAL | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | CHANDAN KUMAR | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | AMAN KUMAR | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | RAJESH ORANG | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | GANESH HANSOA | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | KUNDAN KUMAR | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | KUNDAN KUMAR QJHA | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | GANESH RAM | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | CHANDRAKANTA PRADHAN | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | JAYKISHOR SINGH | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | GURTEJ SINGH | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | GURBINDER SINGH | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | ANKUSH | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | LUNGAMBUI ABONMEI | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | KARNAIL SINGH | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | ROHIN KUMAR | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | SAMINGI TULASI RAM | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | NIKHIL SHARMA | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | TARUN KUMAR | INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | JONDHALE RUSHIKESH RAMCHANDRA | INFANTRY |
| PARATROOPER | CHHATRAPAL SINGH | INFANTRY |
| PARATROOPER | AMIT KUMAR | INFANTRY |
| PARATROOPER | BAL KRISHAN | INFANTRY |
| GRENADIER | RAVI KUMAR SINGH | INFANTRY |
| GRENADIER | PRASHANT SINGH | INFANTRY |
| RIFLEMAN | SUKHBIR SINGH | INFANTRY |

| RANK | NAME | ARMS/SERVICES |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| RIFLEMAN | MOHD ASAF | INFANTRY |
| RIFLEMAN | SHUBAM SHARMA | INFANTRY |
| RIFLEMAN | LAXMAN BC | INFANTRY |
| COLONEL | ASHUTOSH SHARMA, SM** | MECHANISED INFANTRY |
| MAJOR | ANUJ SOOD | MECHANISED INFANTRY |
| NAIK | RAJESH KUMAR | MECHANISED INFANTRY |
| LANCE NAIK | DINESH SINGH | MECHANISED INFANTRY |
| SEPOY | PRASHANT SHARMA | MECHANISED INFANTRY |
| SOWAR | JILAJEET YADAV | ARMoured |
| SUBEDAR | RAJESH KUMAR | ARTILLERY |
| NAIB SUBEDAR | MANDIP SINGH | ARTILLERY |
| NAIB SUBEDAR | SATNAM SINGH | ARTILLERY |
| HAVILDAR | DHARMENDRA SINGH | ARTILLERY |
| HAVILDAR | K PALANI | ARTILLERY |
| HAVILDAR | GURRALA CHANDRA SEKHAR | ARTILLERY |
| HAVILDAR | HARDHAN CHANDRA ROY | ARTILLERY |
| NAIK | PURUSHOTTAM KUMAR | ARTILLERY |
| NAIK | RAJESHWAR LAL | ARTILLERY |
| GUNNER | RANJIT SINGH | ARTILLERY |
| GUNNER | PINTU KUMAR | ARTILLERY |
| GUNNER | BHUPENDER | ARTILLERY |
| GUNNER | SUBODH GHOSH | ARTILLERY |
| LIEUTENANT COLONEL | ROBERT TA | ENGINEERS |
| CAPTAIN | AKASH YADAV | ENGINEERS |
| HAVILDAR | MALLESNA VM | ENGINEERS |
| SAPPER | SAPALA SHANMUKHA RAO | ENGINEERS |
| SAPPER | SANGI REDDY SANJEEVA REDDY | ENGINEERS |
| HAVILDAR | BIPUL ROY | SIGNALS |
| LANCE NAIK | KAMOD KUMAR JHA | SIGNALS |
| SIGNALMAN | HOMESH PRATAP SINGH | SIGNALS |
| NAIK | DEEPAK SINGH | AMC |
| SEPOY | CHANDRABHAN CHAURASIA | AMC |

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New Delhi





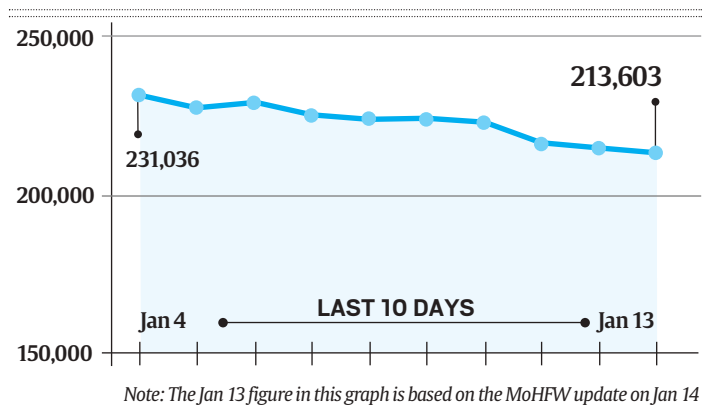
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CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

INDIA ACTIVE CASES



INDIA TOTAL CASES **10,512,093**

Trump impeached, but what's the point now?

CATIE EDMONDSON

WASHINGTON DC, JANUARY 14

THE UNITED States House of Representatives on Wednesday impeached President Donald Trump for a second time, after he egged on a mob of his supporters to storm the Capitol while Congress was meeting to formalise President-elect Joe Biden's victory.

No US President has ever been impeached twice. The first time Trump was impeached was in December 2019, over the alleged abuse of power by him in the Ukraine phone call case. In the trial that followed, the President was acquitted by the Republican majority in the Senate. The article of impeachment charges Trump with "incitement of insurrection", saying he is guilty of "inciting violence against the government of the United States". It cites Trump's weeks-long campaign to falsely discredit the results of the November election, and quotes from the speech in which he told his supporters to go to the Capitol.

The point of impeaching

Trump's final full day in office is Tuesday, January 19. That is also the earliest date on which the Senate is scheduled to meet, and the leader of the Republican majority, Mitch McConnell, has said the trial cannot begin before that. Thereafter, the Senate will need time to set the rules for the impeachment trial, so it is unlikely that proceedings can begin until after Biden takes over on

January 20. And even if 17 Republicans in the Senate vote with the 50 Democrats to create a two-thirds majority (required to remove Trump from office), Trump would already be gone by then.

But proponents say impeachment is worthwhile even then.

Democrats have argued that Trump's offence is so grave that it must be addressed, even with days remaining in his term. To let it go unpunished, Democrats have argued, would set a dangerous precedent of impunity for future Presidents.

Consequence for Trump

The biggest consequence could be disqualification from holding public office again. This won't happen automatically with a Senate conviction — however, the Constitution in such a situation allows for a subsequent vote to bar a convicted official from holding "any office of honour, trust or profit under the United States".

This vote will need only a simple majority, and after January 20, the Democrats will have that (with Vice President Kamala Harris holding the casting vote). Some Republicans — including those who are contemplating a White House run in 2024 and would like Trump removed from the field, as well as those who believe this could be an opportunity to rid the Republican Party of Trump — could also back the vote.

However, there is no precedent for disqualifying a President from future office, and the case could go to the Supreme Court.

The New York Times

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

TWO DAYS before the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccination drive, the Union Health Ministry has sent to all states and immunisation officers, a comprehensive fact sheet for both vaccines — Covaxin and Covishield — that will be used during the initial phase of vaccinating a priority group of 3 crore people.

What is this fact sheet?

It contains general information on the vaccine platform, physical specifications, dosage, cold chain storage requirements, and specific guidelines on contraindications (a factor due to which the vaccine is to be withheld to certain categories of people) as well as adverse events that may happen following vaccination. The fact sheet also details special precautions.

The Centre has asked the states and immunisation officers to disseminate the fact sheet to all programme managers, cold chain handlers, and vaccinators before the rollout. The communication comes on the directions of the national drug regulator CDSCO, which, while granting accelerated approvals, had directed manufacturers Serum Institute of India (Covishield) and Bharat Biotech (Covaxin) that the vaccines should be supplied along with the fact sheet and a separate leaflet for the guidance of the healthcare provider.

So, what are the general guidelines?

- The vaccination is only for people over the age of 18 years.
- The vaccines are not interchangeable; the second dose will have to be of the same vaccine that was administered as the first dose.
- The vaccine should be given with "caution" to persons with a history of any bleeding or coagulation disorder — platelet disorder, clotting factor deficiency, or coagulopathy.
- Vaccinators have to store both vaccines at +2°C to +8°C; protect them from light; and discard the vaccine if found to be frozen.

And what are the specific guidelines on contraindications?

The vaccine cannot be administered to people who belong to any of three categories:

- Persons with a history of an allergic reaction to a previous dose of a Covid-19 vaccine (this would mean those who have taken a dose in a country where vaccination has already started);
- People who show an immediate or delayed onset of an allergic reaction to vaccines or injectable therapies, pharmaceutical products, and food items;
- Pregnant and lactating women. Since they have not been part of any clinical trial so far, women who are "pregnant or not sure of their pregnancy" and "lactating women" should not receive the vaccine at this time.

The fact sheet also deals with temporary contraindications.

What are these temporary contraindications?

For certain circumstances under the cate-



Covishield doses at a Pune Municipal Corporation store, from where it will be distributed to various centres. Arul Horizon

gory of temporary contraindications, vaccination is to be deferred for four-eight weeks after recovery. This covers three categories:

- Persons showing active symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 infection
- Covid-19 patients who have been given anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma
- Acutely unwell and hospitalised patients (with or without intensive care) due to any illness.

What health conditions are not contraindicated, meaning the vaccines can be given regardless?

- Persons with a past history of Covid-19 infection can be administered with vaccine.
- Persons with a history of chronic diseases and comorbidities — cardiac, neurological, pulmonary, metabolic, and malignancies — are also included.
- Persons with immunodeficiency or HIV, and patients on immune suppression due to "any condition" can be administered with the Covid-19 vaccine. The fact sheet states, however, that the response to the Covid-19 vaccine "may be less in these individuals".

What are the possible adverse reactions mentioned?

These are dealt with separately for either vaccine.

MILD ADVERSE EVENTS: For Covishield, the fact sheet says a few mild adverse events can happen following immunisation — injection site tenderness; injection site pain; headache; fatigue; myalgia (deep muscle pain); malaise (a feeling of overall discomfort); pyrexia (an abnormal elevation of body temperature); chills; arthralgia (pain in the joint);

and nausea.

In such cases, the fact sheets says the common painkiller paracetamol may be used "to provide symptomatic relief from post vaccination adverse reaction".

RARE ADVERSE EVENTS: The nerves in the body are covered with a protective layer called myelin — like a network of electric wires that helps transmit messages from the brain smoothly through the body. Conditions that damage myelin are called demyelinating disorders. The fact sheet says "very rare events of demyelinating disorders" have been reported following vaccination with Covishield, "without the causal relationship establishment".

It adds that Covishield should be given with "caution" to individuals with thrombocytopenia, a medical condition characterised by abnormally low levels of platelets.

And what about common adverse events with Covaxin?

MILD ADVERSE EVENTS: Among mild adverse events following immunisation, the fact sheet includes: injection site pain; headache; fatigue; fever; body ache; abdominal pain; nausea and vomiting; dizziness-giddiness; tremor; sweating; cold; cough; and injection site swelling.

RARE/SERIOUS EVENTS: None are listed. Bharat Biotech, the manufacturer, has said no serious adverse event has been reported in either phase 1 or phase 2 trials — or in the ongoing large phase 3 trials with 25,800 participants, it has said.

Bharat Biotech has also said that chloroquine and corticosteroids, both used as repurposed drugs in Covid-19 clinical management, "may impair antibody response" likely to be triggered by the vaccine.

How have vaccines performed on safety so far in countries that have begun?

Wherever Covid-19 vaccines have been used anywhere in the world, they have been found to be generally safe so far.

In a small section, an adverse event called anaphylaxis has been recorded. This is a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction that occurs rarely after vaccination. According to the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), monitoring by the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System detected 21 cases of anaphylaxis — out of a reported 1,893,360 first doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine that were administered between December 14 and 23. That is 11.1 cases per million doses. Of these, 71% occurred within 15 minutes of vaccination.

The CDC said that 175 case reports had been identified for further review as possible cases of a severe allergic reaction. "Twenty-one cases were determined to be anaphylaxis (a rate of 11.1 per million doses administered), including 17 in persons with a documented history of allergies or allergic reactions, seven of whom had a history of anaphylaxis," the CDC said. "Of the remaining case reports that were determined not to be anaphylaxis, 86 were judged to be non-anaphylaxis allergic reactions, and 61 were considered non-allergic adverse events," it said.

On Modern's mRNA vaccine, the other one authorised for emergency use in the US, the CDC said data is still limited. "Vaccination with Moderna Covid-19 vaccine commenced on December 21, 2020, and through December 23, 2020, an estimated 224,322 first doses of the vaccine had been administered; one report that met the Brighton Collaboration case definition criteria for anaphylaxis had been submitted to VAERS," the CDC said.

EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY

Amid vaccine hopes, will gold continue to give high returns in 2021?



SANDEEP SINGH & GEORGE MATHIEW

GOLD GLITTERED as never before in 2020 and hit an all-time high of around Rs 58,000 per 10 grams. It gave maximum returns to investors, its surge largely aided by the economic slowdown across the world induced by the pandemic and surplus liquidity in the system. With vaccination set to begin on January 16, which will likely put livelihoods and the economy on the fast track to normalcy, will gold beat other investment avenues like stocks and real estate and give the same fabulous returns of 30%-plus as in 2021?

How much did gold gain in 2020?

Gold (.999 grade) rose from Rs 39,119 per 10 grams on January 1, 2020 to a high over Rs 58,000 before closing at Rs 50,123 on December 31, a rise of 28% in one year. This means a buyer who bought 100 grams for Rs 3.91 lakh in the beginning of 2020 made a profit of over Rs 1.1 lakh in a year. In the international market, gold surged to a record high of near \$2080 per ounce in August 2020; its current level \$1840.

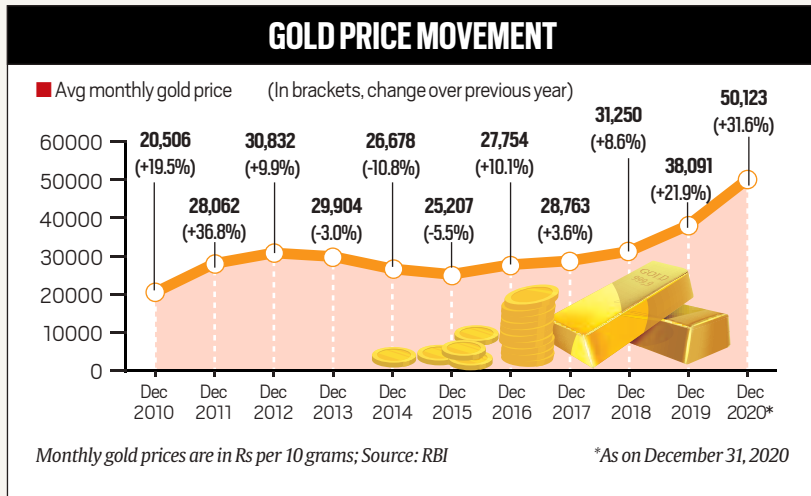
Gold prices have been rising for the last few years and picked up pace in 2020 owing to Covid-19. The 28% growth came on the back of a strong 22% growth in 2019.

In terms of returns, how does gold compare with stocks and real estate?

Considering that the one-year bank deposit rate is at 4.5-5%, gold has turned out to be a safer haven for investors. On the other hand, real estate prices didn't offer any gains. "The annual growth (y-o-y) in all-India Home Price Index (HPI) continued to moderate; it stood at 1.1 per cent in Q2 of 2020-21 as compared with 2.8 per cent growth in previous quarter and 3.3 per cent a year ago," the Reserve Bank of India said. "Gold has given the best return among all asset classes in 2020. It offered better returns than stocks and real estate. When compared to gold, BSE Sensex gave a return of 15.75% in the bygone year," said veteran stock dealer Pawan Dhamidharka.

What's the global scenario?

Gold prices in India are influenced by the global trend. "The escalating virus situation is proving to be a challenge for the global economic recovery. Apart from this, lower interest rates worldwide and the US dollar's downtrend might prove positive for the yellow metal. Currently gold spot is flirting near \$1,900 per ounce. A sustained break might be seen in 2021, which might push the prices to \$1,980 per ounce and then \$2,050 per ounce," said Ravindra Rao, VP and Head of Commodity Research, Kotak Securities.



The big question is: will the gold rally continue in 2021? Major central banks have reduced their interest rate to almost zero per cent and could remain at these levels for at least one year or so. Central banks have also taken an aggressive stance providing liquidity in the market. "All the actions taken will have a spill-over effect on the economy, hence supporting the precious metal prices. The enormous liquidity push by central banks across the world is going to (underpin) fundamental support for continuation of gold strength," Damani said.

How is the gold demand in India?

Interestingly, gold demand in India showed a contrast during 2020. The total jew-

ellery demand decreased by 48% to 52.8 tonnes in the September quarter compared to 101.6 tonnes in the same quarter last year. This was largely due to the rise in prices and lockdown. However, total investment demand during the third quarter surged by 52% to 33.8 tonnes compared to 22.3 tonnes in the same period of 2019 as investors accumulated gold. Stimulus measures have created excess liquidity in the market and there are expectations of an additional stimulus being announced by the US, which will boost bullion prices further. Also, analysts said, ambiguity related to recent developments on Covid vaccines is supporting the gold rally.

What do vaccine hopes augur for gold?

As of now, almost everyone is pinning their hopes on the vaccine and expecting their lives will return to normalcy in 2021. While that hope has resulted in some correction in gold prices, there are many who feel 2021 will not be as smooth as many others expect it to be. The pace and success of vaccination programmes across the world will hold the key; if there are hiccups, gold will remain on a high.

"For all the hope spurred by the breakthroughs on the vaccine front, we believe that most of 2021 will be a bumpy journey from vaccine to vaccination. The development of Covid-19 vaccines in a record time of a few months is commendable. But manufacturing and distribution to immunise a majority of the 7.8 billion world population is an expensive and lengthy exercise. And although the vaccine will slowly and steadily address the health crisis, the world still has an economic crisis to deal with," said Chirag Mehta, senior fund manager-Alternative Investments, Quantum AMC.

So, gold prices will remain bullish in 2021 too?

Gold is poised for another rally in 2021. Analysts forecast prices could rise by another 25% and test the Rs 65,000 level (per 10 grams). "We continue to maintain our bullish view for the long-term perspective. On Comex, going into 2021, the price is expected to extend its bullishness to test a fresh all-time high level of \$2400-2500. Whereas on the domestic front, the price is likely to extend its gains by a further 25% and test Rs 65,000-68,000 level," said

Navneet Damani, Vice President, Commodities Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

"Gold and silver prices have had a good run since the start for 2020 with over 40% gains in gold and 70% gains in silver at one point. With some intermediate correction recently, the excess froth has been taken off and gold is getting ready once again for a next round of upside for 2021," he said.

Mehta said that while the initial upward move will be driven by additional fiscal stimulus from the US government, other factors will be an improving investment demand as well as consumer demand from India and China.

"The continued optimism on the economic recovery and surging risk assets could be a headwind for gold that could limit its rise. However, the fact remains that the economic rebound has been losing steam... When the liquidity-led momentum recedes and markets start reflecting ground reality, gold should reprice on back of constructive fundamentals," Mehta said.

There is also a feeling that with interest rates likely to remain low in developed economies, gold will become a more viable holding option than US Treasury bonds.

Another factor is geopolitical tensions around the world, including US-China relations and India-China relations. "... Tensions between the major economies seem unlikely to de-escalate in the near future... The resulting uncertainty in equity, credit and currency markets will trigger a risk-off sentiment. This will push up investment demand for relatively safer alternatives like gold," Mehta said.



MEANWHILE

AUSTRALIA TO KILL PIGEON THAT CROSSED PACIFIC

A racing pigeon has survived an extraordinary 13,000-km Pacific Ocean crossing from the United States to find a new home in Australia. Now authorities consider the bird a quarantine risk and plan to kill it. The bird had disappeared from a race in the US state of Oregon on October 29, last year, and was found in Melbourne on December 26.

TOP OF THE WORLD



At the Nayapara camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. *Reuters*

BANGLADESH

Fire at refugee camp: Hundreds of Rohingya left homeless

A LARGE fire tore through a crowded Rohingya camp in the Cox's Bazar area of Bangladesh on Thursday, destroying hundreds of ramshackle shelters and forcing displaced Muslim refugees to flee in the winter chill. The blaze claimed no lives but left hundreds of people without homes, according to aid workers and officials. It struck at a time when officials in Bangladesh look for long-term solutions for the hundreds of thousands of refugees who have crossed its border from Myanmar in recent years. The fire erupted around 1 am in the Nayapara refugee camp in southeast Bangladesh. **NYT**

PAKISTAN

Attack on temple: 12 police officials dismissed

THE KHYBER Pakhtunkhwa provincial government in Pakistan has dismissed 12 police officials following an enquiry report that found them guilty of "negligence" in protecting a Hindu temple in the province, which was torched by a mob led by members of a radical Islamist party. The government also forfeited one-year service of 33 police officials in connection with the incident. The temple was attacked on December 30 by the mob after members of the Hindu community received permission from authorities to renovate its building. The mob demolished the newly constructed parts. **PTI**

HONG KONG

11 held on suspicion of aiding activists' escape attempt

HONG KONG police have arrested 11 people over suspected crimes related to assisting a group of 12 pro-democracy activists accused of trying to flee the city by boat for Taiwan last year, police and activists said on Thursday. Those arrested included eight men and three women, aged 18 to 72, a police statement said. Daniel Wong, a lawyer who tried to help the 12 people detained in mainland China last August, was among those arrested according to a post on his Facebook page. **REUTERS**

10 REPUBLICANS JOIN DEMOCRATS IN VOTING TO IMPEACH

SENATE TRIAL UNLIKELY BEFORE TRUMP LEAVES OFFICE

FIRST AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO BE IMPEACHED TWICE

Trump impeached for 'incitement of insurrection'

Move opens prospect of banning him from ever holding public office again

NICHOLAS FANDOS
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 14

DONALD TRUMP on Wednesday became the first American president to be impeached twice, as 10 members of his party joined with Democrats in the House to charge him with "incitement of insurrection" for his role in egging on a violent mob that stormed the Capitol last week.

Reconvening in a building now heavily militarised against threats from pro-Trump activists and adorned with bunting for the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden, lawmakers voted 232 to 197 to approve a single impeachment article. It accused Trump of "inciting violence against the government of the United States" in his quest to overturn the election results, and called for him to be removed and disqualified from ever holding public office again.

The vote left another indelible stain on Trump's presidency just a week before he is slated to leave office and laid bare the cracks running through the Republican Party. More members of his party voted to charge the President than in any other impeachment.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, declaring the past week one of the darkest chapters in American history, implored colleagues to embrace "a constitutional remedy that will ensure that the republic will be safe from this man who is so resolutely determined to tear down the things that we hold dear and that hold us together."

A little more than a year after she led a three-month process to impeach Trump the first time for a pressure campaign on Ukraine to incriminate Biden, Pelosi had moved this time with little fanfare to do the same job in seven days.

TOP HOUSE LEADERS CRITICISE TRUMP

He must go. He is a clear and present danger to the nation that we all love... It gives me no pleasure to say this, it breaks my heart."
— NANCY PELOSI
HOUSE SPEAKER AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The President bears responsibility for Wednesday's attack on Congress by mob rioters. He should have immediately denounced the mob when he saw what was unfolding."
— KEVIN MCCARTHY
TOP HOUSE REPUBLICAN

The House's action set the stage for the second Senate trial of the President in a year. However, that now seems unlikely to happen before January 20 — the day Trump leaves office and Biden takes oath as the new president. The Associated Press reported that the Senate trial could begin on inauguration day itself.

The last proceeding was a partisan affair. But this time, Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky and the majority leader, was said to support the effort as a means of purging his party of Trump. If a Senate trial resulted in Trump's conviction, it held out the prospect of barring him from ever holding office again. **NYT**



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi gaveling in the final vote of the impeachment of US President Donald Trump, for his role in inciting an angry mob to storm the Congress last week, at the Capitol in Washington on Wednesday. **AP**

Expecting trouble, Washington locks down week before Biden inauguration

ASHRAF KHALIL & LOLITA C BALDOR
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 14

ALL THROUGH downtown Washington, the primary sound for several blocks was the beeping of forklifts unloading more fencing.

There were no cars or scooters and seemingly no tourists Wednesday, just the occasional jogger and multiple construction crews at work. The US Capitol that proved such a soft target last week was visible only through lines of tall, black fence.

Two blocks from the White House, a group of uniformed National Guard troops emerged from a tour bus and headed into a hotel as a state of lockdown descended on Washington that will last through the January 20 inauguration.



National Guard troops inside the Capitol on Wednesday. **AP**

The FBI has warned that armed protests by violent Trump supporters were being planned in all 50 state capitals as well as in Washington for the days leading up to the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden.

"Clearly we are in uncharted waters," said Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser.

Police vehicles sealed off a huge swath of downtown DC, causing traffic snarls. Starting Wednesday, anyone inside the inauguration perimeter might be stopped and questioned.

Several downtown hotels, including one which had become a favourite hangout of the militant Proud Boy faction, have closed. **AP**

New rule to raise wage rates for H-1B workers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 14

THE TRUMP administration has announced a final rule that will significantly raise the minimum wages that employers in the US must pay to foreign workers on visa programmes like the H-1B as part of efforts to protect American workers from being undercut by cheaper labour

from abroad.

Days before the end of the administration of President Donald Trump, the US Department of Labor said the final rule would help protect the wages and job opportunities of American workers by reforming the wage methodology it uses to set prevailing wage rates to prevent potential abuses of its Permanent Employment Certification, H-1B, H-1B1 and E-3 Visa foreign worker pro-

grammes.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

The final rule will improve the accuracy of prevailing wages paid to foreign workers by bringing

them in line with the wages paid to similarly employed US workers, the Department of Labor said in a news release on Tuesday.

Prevailing wage rate is defined as the average wage paid to similarly employed workers in a specific occupation in the area of intended employment.

It serve to protect US workers from competition posed by the entry of lower-cost foreign labour into the US.

Ugandans choose between long-time leader and popstar politician in tense presidential vote

REUTERS
KAMPALA, JANUARY 14

UGANDANS WEARING face masks to brave the pandemic voted on Thursday as police and soldiers patrolled the streets of the capital during a presidential election pitting long-time leader Yoweri Museveni against popular singer Bobi Wine.

Long lines of voters snaked out of polling stations visited by Reuters in Kampala, a stronghold

A generation gap that may lead to change

YOWERI MUSEVENI, 76, has had five terms as President, a post he has held on to since 1986. The biggest threat to his bid for a sixth term comes from reggae star Bobi Wine, 38, who has a large youth following. The

fact that around 80% of the Ugandan population is below 30 could work in the musician's favour. However, Museveni is seen by many as a revolutionary leader who has brought peace to the nation.

for an opposition galvanised by popstar-turned-politician Wine

despite a campaign scarred by deadly crackdowns.

The government in the East African country of nearly 46 million people ordered an internet blackout until further notice on Wednesday, a day after it banned all social media apps.

Reggae artist Bobi Wine, 38, is channelling the anger of many Ugandans who say former guerrilla leader Museveni, now 76, is an out-of-touch dictator failing to tackle unemployment and corruption. There are 17.7 million registered voters and results are expected within 48 hours. **REUTERS**

AFTER MONTHS OF DIPLOMATIC WRANGLING

WHO team arrives in Wuhan to investigate pandemic origins

2 of 15-member team test positive, stay back in Singapore

SAM MCNEIL & HUIZHONG WU
WUHAN, JANUARY 14

A GLOBAL team of researchers arrived Thursday in the Chinese city where the coronavirus pandemic was first detected to conduct a politically sensitive investigation into its origins amid uncertainty about whether Beijing might try to prevent embarrassing discoveries.

The group sent to Wuhan by the World Health Organisation was approved by President Xi Jinping's government after months of diplomatic wrangling that prompted an unusual public complaint by the head of WHO.

Scientists suspect the virus jumped to humans from bats or other animals, likely in China's southwest. The ruling Communist Party, stung by complaints it allowed the disease to spread, said the virus came from abroad. Fifteen team members were



The WHO team at the Wuhan airport on Thursday. **AP**

to arrive in Wuhan on Thursday, but two tested positive for coronavirus antibodies before leaving Singapore and were being re-tested there, WHO said in a statement on Twitter.

The rest of the team that arrived in Wuhan will undergo a two-week quarantine as well as Covid tests, Chinese state media said. They are to start working with Chinese experts via video conference while in quarantine. **AP**

POPE FRANCIS, EX-POPE BENEDICT BOTH GET COVID VACCINE: VATICAN

Vatican: Both Pope Francis and ex Pope Benedict have received the first dose of a vaccine against coronavirus, the Vatican said on Thursday. The 84-year-old pope and the 93-year-old former pope, got their jabs as part of a Vatican vaccination programme that began on Wednesday. Both men are vulnerable to contracting the virus because of their age. There have been fewer than 30 cases of coronavirus in the Vatican City, most of them among the Swiss Guard, who live in a communal barracks. **REUTERS**

RUSSIA TO SEEK EU NOD FOR SPUTNIK V VACCINE

Moscow: Russia will submit a formal application to the European Union next month for approval of its Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine, the head of Russia's sovereign wealth fund said on Thursday. Peer-reviewed results of the vaccine would be released shortly and would demonstrate its high efficacy, fund chief Kirill Dmitriev said in an interview at the Reuters Next conference. He said Sputnik V would be produced in seven countries. He added that regulators in nine countries are expected to approve the vaccine for domestic use this month. **REUTERS**

THE PAINTING ON AN INDONESIAN ISLAND IS THOUGHT TO BE AT LEAST 45,500 YRS OLD

Pig painting may be world's oldest cave art: archaeologists

BECKY FERREIRA
JANUARY 14

IN A hidden valley on an Indonesian island, there is a cave decorated with what may be the oldest figurative art ever glimpsed by modern eyes.

The vivid depiction of a wild pig, outlined and filled in with mulberry-hued pigment, dates back at least 45,500 years, according to a study published Wednesday in *Science Advances*. It was discovered deep inside a cave called Leang Tedongnge in December 2017, during an archaeological survey led by Basran Burhan, a graduate student at



The painting in a cave on the island of Sulawesi. **NYT**

Griffith University and co-author of the new research. The animal in the painting resembles the warty pig, a species still living to-

day on the island of Sulawesi where the cave is.

Sulawesi was already considered by some experts to be the

site of the earliest known representational cave art in the world. A captivating scene elsewhere on the island, which displays human-animal hybrids, was found to be at least 43,900 years old, reported by the same team in a 2019 study.

These examples of cave art, along with another pig figure spotted at a cave further south by Adhi Agus Oktaviana, also a graduate student at Griffith University and co-author of the study, hint at the rich cultures living on the Indonesian islands. The discoveries also open a debate over whether the artists could have been Homo sapiens, or members of another extinct human species.

The Leang Tedongnge site is only about 40 miles from Makassar, a bustling city of some 1.5 million people. But the cave has remained virtually untouched because it is so challenging to reach.

"Getting to it requires a difficult trek along a rough forest path that winds through mountainous terrain and ends in a narrow cave passage, which is the only entrance to the valley," said Adam Brumm, also an archaeologist at Griffith University and a co-author of the study. "The valley can only be accessed during the dry season; during the wet season the valley floor is completely flooded and the residents have to travel around on dugout canoes." **NYT**

Instagram influencers are a vaccine priority in Indonesia

REUTERS
JAKARTA, JANUARY 14

AMONG THE first in the queue for coronavirus vaccines in Indonesia has been one conspicuous group — social media influencers.

Alongside President Joko Widodo, as the world's fourth most populous country kicked off its vaccination drive on Wednesday, was Indonesian television personality, Raffi Ahmad, who boasts almost 50 million followers on Instagram.

"Alhamdulillah [Praise be to God] a vaccine ... Don't be afraid of vaccines," the 33-year-old celebrity wrote under a video of him receiving the shot, next to a heart emoji and another of Indonesia's red and white flag.



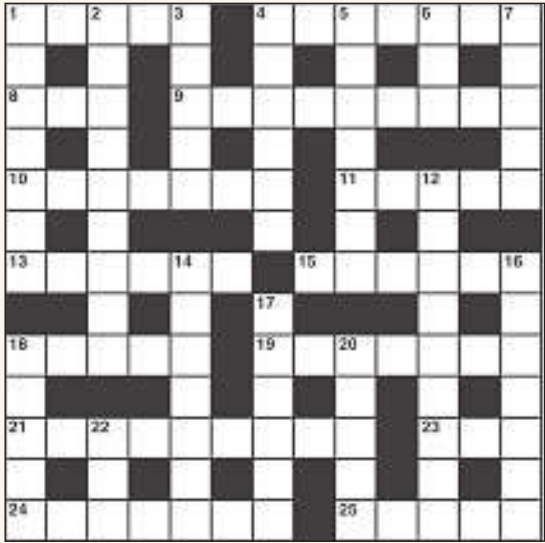
Influencer Raffi Ahmad gets a vaccine shot. *Reuters*

Senior health ministry official, Siti Nadia Tarmizi, said the decision to include influencers alongside almost 1.5 million healthcare workers in the first round of inoculations was a deliberate government communications strategy.

There has been scepticism in Indonesia around the safety and efficacy of vaccines, and whether they are allowed under Islam.

Indonesians are among the top global users of social media platforms like Instagram.

CROSSWORD 4328



- ACROSS**

1 Possibly grasp a support (5)
4 See 19 Across
8 I am after the French garland of flowers (3)
9 Temple too elaborate for tribal symbol (5,4)
10 Indispensable element in German city church (7)
11 One who draws a London landmark (5)
13 Characteristics begin holding one back (6)
15 Number after a new atom bomb explosive (6)
18 A Belgian city is the subject (5)
19 and 4 Across: Yet we don't wipe down with them (7,7)
21 Barely countenanced (9)
23 A Scot's surprised expression (3)
24 A hundred cheers perhaps or one cry of terror (7)
25 The main comings and goings (5)
- DOWN**

1 A dissipater able to meet obligations (7)
2 Restore control to the country (9)
3 Board and fare (3,2)
4 Ill-suited for work (6)
5 Tommy's quiet; possibly a sign of illness (7)
6 I personally leave after an early start (3)
7 Cut and share out (5)
12 Guard what one says - it's a good maxim (9)
14 Vaguely related to the footplate (7)
16 Charles is out in the forest (7)
17 Change the fares before the end of March again (6)
18 Ear-piercing features of organs (5)
20 One advantage of changing seats (5)
22 Some music of vital importance (3)

Solutions Crossword 4327: Across: 1 Art gallery, 8 Oscar, 9 Staunch, 10 Treason, 11 Poser, 12 Foyers, 14 Settle, 17 Libra, 19 Inherit, 21 Cushion, 22 Agair, 23 Limitation. Down: 2 Rockery, 3 Germs, 4 Losing, 5 Example, 6 Yanks, 7 Charleston, 8 Out of place, 13 Realism, 15 Tornado, 16 Linnet, 18 Basil, 20 Heart.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

People___what they___- Jacques Yves Cousteau (7,4)

VYEER

□ □ □ □ □

EKOCLT

□ □ □ □ □

GUOOT

□ □ □ □ □

ERUYPV

□ □ □ □ □

Answer: People protect what they love - Jacques Yves Cousteau

SUDOKU 4352

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4352

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| 7 | 5 | | | 9 | 3 | | | |
| | 1 | 8 | | 4 | 2 | | | |
| | | | 3 | | | | | |
| | 6 | 7 | | 9 | 2 | | | |
| 2 | 7 | | | 3 | 8 | | | |
| | 1 | 3 | | 2 | 5 | | | |
| | | | 6 | | | | | |
| 6 | | 1 | 5 | 3 | | | | |
| 4 | 3 | | | 1 | 5 | | | |

Form No. 15
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
Wing: A,B & F (2nd Floor),
Karpuri Thakur Sadan Kendriya Karmchhari Parishar (GPOA), Near Rajeev Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna- 800025
O.A./M.A. No: 260 of 2020
Applicant : STATE BANK OF INDIA, (SARB), PATNA
Vs.
Respondent Defendant s: Sehra Real Estate Developers Pvt. Ltd., PV 505, Block B, 5th Floor Patliputra Mall, Exhibition Road, Distt.- Patna- 800001
1. **Sehra Real Estate Developers Pvt. Ltd., PV 505, Block B, 5th Floor Patliputra Mall, Exhibition Road, Distt.- Patna- 800001**
2. **Shri Hemant Kumar (Director) Sehra Real Estate Developers Pvt. Ltd. S/o Kailash Grain, Bengali Tola, Near Devi Asthan Patna.**
3. **Shri Rajnikant (Director) S/o Nagendra Prasad, B-23, Sachivalaya Colony Kankarbagh, Patna.**
4. **Shri Santosh Kumar (Director) Sehra Real Estate Developers Pvt. Ltd. S/o Late Shival Singh, Vill- Jararpur, P.S- Harnaut, Nalanda.**

.....Defendants.
Whereas the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.33,63,610.00 Rupees thirty three lacs sixty three thousand six hundred ten only.** The above mentioned defendants are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in Person or through an advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 25/02/2021 at 10:30 A.M. (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned Hereir before, the Proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.
Give under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 7th day of January 2021.

REGISTRAR
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

FORM NO.15
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT PATNA
A, B & F Wing, 2nd Floor, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karmchhari Parishar (GPOA), Near Rajeev Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna- 800025
O.A. No. 721 of 2019
Bank of India, A. N. Puri Branch, Gaya, Town & District - Gaya - 823001. (IFSC Code BKID0004480)
Versus
Ravi Shankar Suman @ Ravi Kumar Suman & others
.....Respondents
SUMMON ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURES RULES-1993)
To,
1. **Ravi Shankar Suman @ Ravi Kumar Suman, S/o- Sri Baliram Singh, Resident of Village- Bali, PO- Adai, PS- Konch, District- Gaya, (PAN.NO.- ESPPS8481C).**
2. **Abhiram Singh, S/o- Late Sagar Singh, Resident of Village- Bali, PO- Adai, PS- Konch, District- Gaya.**
3. **Gauri Shanker Sharma, S/o- Sri Baliram Singh, Resident of Village-Bali, PO-Adai, PS-Konch, District- Gaya.**
Where the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the defendant(s) for the recovery of a sum of **Rs. 46,79,872.91 (Forty Six Lakh, Seventy Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred, Seventy Two and Ninety One Paise) with pendente lite and future interest etc.**
The above mentioned defendant(s) is/are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in persons or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of his/her defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 25.02.2021 at 10:30 AM (Forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this tribunal on this 6th day Jan. 2021.

FORM NO.15
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT PATNA
A, B & F Wing, 2nd Floor, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karmchhari Parishar (GPOA), Near Rajeev Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna- 800025
O.A. No. 638 of 2019
Bank of India, A. N. Puri Branch, Gaya, District - Gaya - 823001. (IFSC Code BKID0004480)
Versus
M/s Maa Kamla Jaivik Khad & others
.....Defendant(s)
SUMMON ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURES RULES-1993)
To,
(1)**M/s Maa Kamla Jaivik Khad through its proprietor Pramod Kumar, son of Sri Beni Yadav @ Shiv Bachan Yadav, Resident of village- Sherpur, P.O.- Churi, P.S.- Chandauti, District- Gaya 823001.**
(2)**Pramod Kumar, Proprietor of M/s Maa Kamla Jaivik Khad, son of Sri Beni Yadav @ Shiv Bachan Yadav, Resident of village- Sherpur, P.O.- Churi, P.S.- Chandauti, District- Gaya 823001. (PAN NO. CCAPK3431P)**
(3)**Jainendra Singh @ Jamindra Singh, son of Shri Shiv Bachan Yadav, Resident at village- Sherpur, PO- Churi, PS- Chandauti, District- Gaya-823001.**
(4)**Shiv Bachan Yadav, son of late Ramadhar Yadav, Resident at village- Sherpur, PO- Churi, PS- Chandauti, District- Gaya-823001.**
Where the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the defendant(s) for the recovery of a sum of **Rs. 28,60,040.78 (Twenty Eight lacs Sixty thousand Forty and Seventy Eight paise) Only.**
The above mentioned defendant(s) is/are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in persons or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of his/her defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 25.02.2021 at 10:30 AM (Forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the date mentioned herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this tribunal on this 6th day Jan. 2021.

FORM NO.15
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT PATNA
A, B & F Wing, 2nd Floor, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karmchhari Parishar (GPOA), Near Rajeev Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna- 800025
O.A. No. 638 of 2019
Bank of India, A. N. Puri Branch, Gaya, District - Gaya - 823001. (IFSC Code BKID0004480)
Versus
M/s Maa Kamla Jaivik Khad & others
.....Defendant(s)
SUMMON ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURES RULES-1993)
To,
(1)**M/s Maa Kamla Jaivik Khad through its proprietor Pramod Kumar, son of Sri Beni Yadav @ Shiv Bachan Yadav, Resident of village- Sherpur, P.O.- Churi, P.S.- Chandauti, District- Gaya 823001.**
(2)**Pramod Kumar, Proprietor of M/s Maa Kamla Jaivik Khad, son of Sri Beni Yadav @ Shiv Bachan Yadav, Resident of village- Sherpur, P.O.- Churi, P.S.- Chandauti, District- Gaya 823001. (PAN NO. CCAPK3431P)**
(3)**Jainendra Singh @ Jamindra Singh, son of Shri Shiv Bachan Yadav, Resident at village- Sherpur, PO- Churi, PS- Chandauti, District- Gaya-823001.**
(4)**Shiv Bachan Yadav, son of late Ramadhar Yadav, Resident at village- Sherpur, PO- Churi, PS- Chandauti, District- Gaya-823001.**
Where the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the defendant(s) for the recovery of a sum of **Rs. 28,60,040.78 (Twenty Eight lacs Sixty thousand Forty and Seventy Eight paise) Only.**
The above mentioned defendant(s) is/are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in persons or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of his/her defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 25.02.2021 at 10:30 AM (Forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the date mentioned herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this tribunal on this 6th day Jan. 2021.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

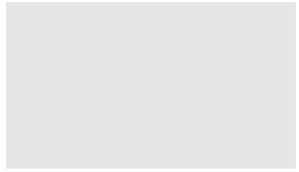
| Sr. No. | NAME OF DEPARTMENT | OLD REFERENCE NO. & DATE | NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM | WEBSITE OF DEPARTMENT | NOTAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL |
|---------|---|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | HARYANA ROADS & BRIDGES | L.S. 100/2020-21 (100/2020-21) | PUTTING UP ADVERTISEMENT BOARDING AT BUS STAND AND ON ROADSIDE OF HARYANA ROADS & BRIDGES | www.haryana.gov.in | 100/2020-21 |
| 1 | DIRECTORATE OF STATE TRANSPORT, HARYANA (CHARGED) | CS-200/2020-21 (200/2020-21) | THE CORRIGENDUM, CLARIFICATION TO THE QUERIES OF PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS HAS BEEN ISSUED ON THE FOLLOWING PERIOD OF THE DEPARTMENT. It is requested to be published as well as on the website. | www.haryana.gov.in | 200/2020-21 |

14087/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hrya.nic.in

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Dy CSTE/Con-IECR/Samasitpur for & on behalf of president of India are invited Open online E-Tender.
E-Tender No. S&T-Con-I-SPJ-26-20-21, Name of work : Provision of Automatic media changeover in sections targeted for FY 2020-21 & already commissioned at Samasitpur, Muktapur, Kishanpur, Thalwara, Laheria Sarai and Darbhanga (06) Stations in connection with Doubling Work in Samasitpur-Darbhanga Section of Samasitpur Division. Muzaafpur, Motpur, Mahwal, Mehni, Chakia and Sugauli (06) Stations in connection with Doubling Work in Muzaafpur- Sugauli Section of Samasitpur Division, Majhoolia, Bettiah, Sathi, Narkatiaganj, Chumua and Harnagaur (06) Stations in connection with Doubling Work in Sugauli - Valmikinagar Section of Samasitpur Division of E.C.R. Railway. Approximate Cost : Rs. 9153808.90, Earnest Money : Rs. 183100.00, Cost of Tender Document : 0.00, Completion Period : 06 (Six) Months. Last Date & Time of submission of online E-Tender : 02/02/2021 up to 12:00. For details information, may kindly see the tender notice and tender documents which are available at Indian Railway website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> Assistant Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Con, Samasitpur PR/1299/CSPJ/S&T/T/20-21/40

Form No. 15
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, AT PATNA
O.A./M.A. 18/2020
Applicant : STATE BANK OF INDIA, STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB), PATNA
Vs.
Respondent Defendant(s): M/s Ashutosh Enterprises & another. SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.
To,
1. **M/s Ashutosh Enterprises through its proprietor Ashutosh Kumar Upadhayay, At+P.O. Mohamadpur, Saran.**
2. **Ashutosh Kumar Upadhayay, S/o Ramashankar Upadhayay At+P.O. Mohamadpur, P.S. Manjhi, Distt. Saran. (Pan No. ACYPU9027D)**
.....Defendants.
Whereas the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 27,31,328.56 as on 04/10/2019** together with current and future interest, costs and for other reliefs.
The above mentioned defendant / s is/are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of his/her defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 1st day of February 2021 at 10.30 a.m. (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted. (01.02.2021)
Take notice that in case of default of the application with heard and determined in your absence.
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THIS TRIBUNAL ON THIS THE 18th DAY OF Dec 2020.
REGISTRAR
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

राष्ट्रीय विद्युत वितरण निगम लि
CIN:U31200UP2003SGC027460
एतद्वारा आगरा शहर के अन्तर्गत दिनांक 31.03.2010 से पूर्व के विद्युत बिलों की बकाया धनराशि को 90 दिनों के अन्दर में आगरा के माध्यम से वसूलने हेतु राविविद्युत निगम लि द्वारा गठित की जाने वाली उच्च स्तरीय समिति के अध्यक्ष एवं अधिकारी सदस्य के पद के लिए वाहय सेवानिवृत्त जज (जुडिशियल) की नियुक्ति की जाती है। अतः समिति के अध्यक्ष एवं अधिकारी सदस्य पद हेतु इच्छुक सेवानिवृत्त जज (जुडिशियल) अपना पूर्ण बायोडाटा, अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत नगरीय वितरण खण्ड-तृतीय, यमुना बैंक पार हाउस, कॉलोनी, नुनिहाई रोड, रामबाग, आगरा के कार्यालय में दिनांक 31.01.2021 तक उपलब्ध कराना सुनिश्चित करें जिससे अध्यक्ष एवं अधिकारी सदस्य पद हेतु नियुक्ति की कार्यवाही शीघ्रतः शीघ्र की जा सके।
अतिरिक्त, राविविद्युत निगम लि, आगरा
राष्ट्रीय हित में बिजली बचायें



DELHI JAL BOARD
(Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi)
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR. VIII
Yamuna Vihar Sewage Treatment Plant (Adjoining Dr. Ambedkar College) Delhi- 110094
Phone: 011-22813593 Email: ecedr8@gmail.com
"STOP CORONA: Wash Your Hand, Wear Mask, Maintain Social Distancing"
PRESS NIT NO- 3 (2020-21)

| S. No | Name of work | Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender (Rs.) | Earnest Money (EMD) (Rs.) | Tender processing Fee Non Refundable (Rs.) | Date of Release of Tender/ Tender Id. | Last date/time of receipt of tender |
|-------|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Construction of 3.85 (MGD) WWPS including rising main at Harsh Vihar | (Lump Sum) BDO Basis | Nil (declaration form to be filled) | 1500/- | 2021_DJB_198644_1 dtd. 12.01.2021 | 08.02.2021 upto 3.00 P.M |

PRESS NIT NO- 4 (2020-21)

| S. No | Name of work | Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender (Rs.) | Earnest Money(EMD) (Rs.) | Tender processing Fee Non Refundable (Rs.) | Date of Release of Tender/ Tender Id. | Last date/time of receipt of tender |
|-------|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Providing/Laying/jointing 250 MM dia. Internal Sewer Line in Radha Vihar and Zaidpurin in Gokulpur AC-68 | 2,60,08,718/- | Nil (declaration form to be filled) | 1500/- | 2021_DJB_198653_1 dtd. 12.01.2021 | 02.02.2021 upto 3.00 P.M |

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govt.procurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 315/2020-21

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR- VIII

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

| Sr. No. | NAME OF BIDDING/COMP./AUTH | NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER | OPENING DATE/ CLOSING DATE (TIME) | AMOUNT / END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES | WEBSITE OF THE BIDDING COMP./AUTH | MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL |
|---------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1 | PT. B.O. SHARMA LTD. ROHTAK | DEPLOYMENT OF AGENCY FOR PROVIDING REPAIRS AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES (PERSONAL HOSPITAL AREA, PART-2) FOR ONE YEAR WHICH IS EXTENDABLE ON QUARTERLY BASIS TO A MAXIMUM OF ANOTHER ONE YEAR SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY SERVICES/ THE PT. B.O.S. UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, ROHTAK | EXTENDING DATE: 09.02.2021 | 24,70,000/- (Twenty Four Lac Seventy Thousand only) (2% of the total tender cost) for other agencies/ firm/ companies | www.ujar.ac.in | 01262-281300, 300, 301 Date: 2024 info@ujar.ac.in |
| 2 | HARYANA | PURCHASE OF SHAWING MATERIAL REQUIRED FOR HARVEST DUTY (100 TONS) ROHTAK & S. SHARMA | 23.01.2021 22.01.2021 | 735.75 LACS | www.haryana.gov.in | 8770-295230 haryana@hrya.nic.in |
| 3 | PT. B.O. SHARMA LTD. ROHTAK | DEPLOYMENT OF AGENCY FOR PROVIDING REPAIRS AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES (SCHEM CENTRAL HOSPITAL AREA PART-1) FOR ONE YEAR WHICH IS EXTENDABLE ON QUARTERLY BASIS TO A MAXIMUM OF ANOTHER ONE YEAR SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY SERVICES/ THE PT. B.O.S. UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, ROHTAK | EXTENDING DATE: 09.02.2021 | 23,20,000/- (Twenty Three Lac Twenty Thousand only) (2% of the total tender cost) for other agencies/ firm/ companies | www.ujar.ac.in | 01262-281300, 300, 301 Date: 2024 info@ujar.ac.in |
| 4 | MANJARI SHARMA UNIVERSITY ROHTAK | SALE CONTRACT FOR SERVICES OF WORKER AND JOURNALS FOR THE YEARS 2021, 2022 AND 2023 | 23.01.2021 17.02.2021 | 0 LACS | www.mshu.ac.in | 01262-281300, 300, 301 Date: 2024 info@ujar.ac.in |

14077/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hrya.nic.in

For All Advertisement Booking
Call : 0120-6651214

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
The Moon's entry into a lively region of your chart could come as a welcome relief. You should feel more in control of home and family affairs than may have been the case in the recent past, although financial matters remain dodgy. It may be a partner who is unreliable, but it might also be your judgement that slides.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
This is very much a time to behave like a true Taurus - resolute, responsible and keen to retain all that is best from the past. However, please be very aware that at particular moments you will be obliged to compromise. So, you'd better start looking for an escape route.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
There does seem to be a real chance that the emotional strain of the current times will have an adverse effect on your health. Bearing in mind that astrology deals with prevention rather than cure, don't let this week's irritating stresses and strains get to you.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Your lunar alignments remind you of the importance of professional activities and ambitions. In some strange way, work may be a means for you to provide yourself with emotional security, or a feeling that you have a genuine role in the world.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
A number of long-term commitments may have come under increased scrutiny, but that's no reason to walk away from a responsibility. It may be more useful to you to stick around for a while and see exactly what can be worked out. Partners may be prepared to do more than their fair share - if you ask nicely.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Mercury is still exerting a powerful pull over your sign, and will do so for another eight weeks. This is an indication of celestial protection which should see you recover from current battles and pass unscathed through the next two months' worth of ups and downs.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Although the celestial relationship between Mars and the Sun is placing you under personal pressure, others are barking up the wrong tree if they imagine they can out-manoeuvre you. Conciliation is the key, but only you have the instinctive sense of what needs to be said - and done.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
A family or domestic matter may be settling down, but professional Scorpions are not out of the woods just yet. Remember one piece of vital advice: a good general never starts a battle that can't be won. The struggle you're facing, though, should be a war of wits.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
Personally and emotionally, things are likely to remain uncertain, partly because others are vacillating and unwilling to make a decent commitment. Even those who do make arrangements are liable to break them! That's why you should keep your options open.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
If you use finances as a bait, you could be taking a big risk. Either other people may accept you at face value, or you may let yourself in for commitments you can't keep. Put home and family first, for it's the people who know you best who will stick by you.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Venus, planet of love, is approaching a single degree of your solar chart which denotes your relationships. You should therefore feel only optimism for the future, no matter what current events suggest; if you hope for the best then the best is more likely to happen.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Self-knowledge is a Piscean speciality and you have a rare and remarkable understanding of what must be done. Deep down you know that the time has come to sever one particular tie or association and concentrate on another which seems to have more meaning.

Form No. 15
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, AT PATNA
O.A./M.A. 01/2020
Applicant : STATE BANK OF INDIA, STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB), PATNA
Vs.
Respondent Defendant(s): M/s Sidhi Vinayak Textile & others. SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.
To,
1. **M/s Sidhi Vinayak Textile through its proprietor Anil Kumar having its shop situated at Gola Bazar, Sonapur.**
2. **Sri Anil Kumar, S/o Jawahar Lal Sah, resident of Gola Bazar, Sonapur. (Pan No. CYAPK9947A)**
3. **Sri Subodh Kumar, (Guarantor), S/o Sri Jawahar Lal Sah, resident of Barbata, Sonapur.**
4. **Lalita Devi, (Guarantor) W/o Jawahar Lal Sah resident of Barbata, Sonapur.**
.....Defendants.
Whereas the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 22,75,257.70 as on 10/12/2019** together with current and future interest, costs and for other reliefs.
The above mentioned defendant / s is/are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of his/her defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 24th day of February 2021 at 10.30 a.m. (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default of the application with heard and determined in your absence.
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THIS TRIBUNAL ON THIS THE 6th DAY OF Jan 2021.
REGISTRAR
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

18 SPORT

Bess spins a web as England bowl out Lanka for 135 on Day 1

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GALLE, JANUARY 14

ENGLAND SET its sight on a meaningful first innings lead after offspinner Dom Bess took a career-best 5-30 to bowl out Sri Lanka for 135 on the first day of the first Test on Thursday.

Captain Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow further thwarted Sri Lanka ambitions with a gritty, unbroken stand of 110 runs to close the day at 127-2, trailing by just eight runs. Root reached his half-century off 94 balls and was unbeaten on 66 with five fours, while Bairstow was 47 not out.

It could have been 52-3 but Root escaped on 20 when he successfully overturned a lbw decision through video referral. Root and Bairstow came together after left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya removed openers Dom Sibley and Zak Crawley to reduce the visitors to 2-17 inside the first nine overs.

Both batsmen grew in confidence and neutralized the three-pronged spin attack of Embuldeniya, Wanindu Hasaranga and Dilruwan Perera through sweep shots and maintained a healthy run rate of 3.4 runs an over to raise the century stand. Earlier, stand-in captain Dinesh Chandimal, who won the toss and opted to bat, top-scored with 28 after regular skipper Dimuth Karunaratne was ruled out with a broken thumb in Sri Lanka's first home test since the pandemic began.

Stuart Broad picked up two early wickets in one over and 3-20 overall, while Bess found some unexpected assistance from the Galle International Stadium pitch to dismiss the home team just before tea. Bess, playing in Asia for the first time, claimed his first wicket with his second delivery when Kusal Perera went for an ambitious reverse sweep on 20 and gloved a simple catch to skipper Joe Root at first slip.

Broad, bowling around the wicket, had the left-hander Lahiru Thirimanne caught at leg slip on 4 in his fourth over. One ball later, Kusal Mendis fell for his fourth successive duck in tests as he got a faint edge off Broad's brilliant leg-cutter. Senior pros Chandimal and Angelo Mathews shared a 56-run, fourth-wicket stand until they departed in successive overs after lunch.

Mathews' milestone

En route to 27, Mathews became only the fifth Sri Lankan to pass 6,000 Test runs after Kumar Sangakkara (12,400), Mahela Jayawardene (11,814), Sanath Jayasuriya (6,973), and Aravinda de Silva (6,361).

But the former skipper was dismissed by Broad after the break when a loose shot was caught at slip by Root at chest height. In the next over, Chandimal, who reached 4,000 runs in Tests, gave a tame catch in the covers off Jack Leach. Bess ran through the tail quickly. England gave a Test cap to Essex batsman Dan Lawrence, who dropped an easy catch of Chandimal in the covers just before lunch. The visitors opted to rest James Anderson and picked Sam Curran and Mark Wood to partner Broad.

England wore black armbands in memory of former England test cricketers -- John Edrich, Robin Jackman and Dom Smith -- who died recently.

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 135 (Bess 5-30, Broad 3-20) vs England 127 for 2 (Root 66*, Bairstow 47*)

Bess found some unexpected assistance from the Galle International Stadium pitch to dismiss the home team just before tea

FALL FROM GRACE

Keller: Olympic gold medallist, failed salesman & now Capitol Hill rioter

SHAHID JUDGE
JANUARY 14

A VIDEO on *YouTube* joyfully celebrates Klete Keller's greatest Olympic achievement. It's a replay of the swimming 4x200 metre relay event from the 2004 Athens Games. Keller, the anchor in the American line-up had the unenviable and seemingly unassailable task of keeping the in-form Ian Thorpe at bay.

By the time Keller dove in, the Americans had a decent gap but Thorpe closed-in immediately. At the 800m mark, the Australians, who had not lost the event in the previous seven years, were expected to retain the crown from Sydney 2000. But Keller held on, giving the US a 0.13 second win.

That was Keller's first Olympic gold – he'd be a part of the American team that won gold at the same race four years later in Beijing as well.

Of late though, there's another video on social media that has been doing the rounds.

SANDIPG
JANUARY 14

HOURS AFTER landing in Brisbane, where the most dramatic of series in recent memory seeks closure, Josh Hazlewood sounded out a warning to the Indians: "We will be extremely dangerous in Gabba. We probably grow a leg up there." In the heat of the Sydney battle, Aussie skipper Tim Paine had issued a threat to Ravichandran Ashwin from behind the stumps: "Can't wait to get you to the Gabba." Months before the schedule of the series was fixed, Paine had requested Cricket Australia to start the series in Brisbane, before flinging a tongue-in-cheek dart at Virat Kohli: "Maybe we can get a pink-ball Test (in Brisbane) if he's in a good mood."

However, two weeks ago, it was uncertain whether the arena would indeed host this Test, due to Queensland's rigorous adherence to COVID-19 protocols.

Fearsome arena

Like every arena in Australia, Gabba has a unique characteristic. The Sydney Cricket Ground has an old-world grandeur, Melbourne Cricket Ground glows in its historic majesty, Adelaide has a laid-back, carnival-like feel. Perth's WACA breathes a fearful romance, the neighbouring Optus flaunts a glowering swankiness, and Hobart's Bellerive Oval exudes an offbeat charm. The Gabba simply frightens. The very name induces a shiver down the spine. Maybe, the stadium built over a swampland park was destined to frighten.

Gabba owes its name from Wollongabba, the suburb it stands in. The old inhabitants used to call it Wulonkoppa, which means "fight talk place." It's a big bowl of an arena, a closed enclosure, where the crowd, possessing a fierce sense of rough regional identity, is shudderingly inhospitable. Few stadiums strike such an aural fear either. Gabbatoir, its moniker, provokes a hollow dread. Like being thrown into a slaughterhouse. Is there a more savagely-named bowling end in cricket than the Vulture Street End? As if the bowlers are circling around the batsman to rip the carcass apart. Outside the stadium, there is a board that reads: "Vulture St. One way." Often, for oppositions, there has been no way out.

The indomitable arena could get to the players. "Brisbane is not an occasion of joy. The

The Gabba pitch has preserved its distinctive characteristics over the years, offering bounce, pace and swing. [cricket.com.au](#)

dressings rooms, for a start, they are down underneath, so it's like you are locked into the dungeon, then you get released into this concrete jungle and the heat... the heat just hits you as you come through the tunnel from an air-conditioned dressing room," former England captain Michael Vaughan once told *BT Sport*.

Aussie fortress

It's where Michael Clarke threatened James Anderson: "Get ready for a broken f***n arm. It's where the security guys sledged the Barmy Army out of the stadium. It's where Mitchell Johnson spooked out Jonathan Trott with his chin music. It's where Australia routinely kick-started their home Test summers. Passing through the crucible was the roughest examination of a touring team's mettle, of their minds as well as bodies. Unsurprisingly, the decision to move the season-opener away from Brisbane, due to financial considerations, met stout rebuke from past and present players, eventually forcing the reinstatement of the tradition from the next Ashes.

It's easy to see why Australia's cricketers love the Gabba so much – because Australians

Few stadiums strike such an aural fear either. Gabbatoir, its moniker, a portmanteau of Gabba and abattoir, provokes a hollow dread. Like being thrown into a slaughterhouse.

love winning and at the Gabba, they almost always win. In 62 Tests, they have emerged victorious on 40 instances. They have lost only eight games, the last in 1988 to Viv Richards' West Indies. In their 32-match unbeaten streak since, they have drawn just seven games, mostly rain-hampered games. So crushing has been the authority here that they have enjoyed four 10-wicket victories, eight innings wins and seven with a margin in excess of 150 runs since their last defeat.

India have lost six of their seven games here, the only drawn game owed to Sourav Ganguly's heroic century, undoubtedly his best, in 2003. However, there have been several close brushes. Like in 1968, they fell short by

39 runs chasing 395, when ML Jaisimha stroked a magnificent 101. Nine years later, a WSC-depleted Australia snuck home by 16 runs, defending 340. The rest have been sound thrashings, including being bundled out for 58 and 98 on the 1947-48 tour. Only five Indian batsmen have scored centuries at the Gabba.

Little has changed

It's also one of the few surfaces in the country that have preserved their distinctive characteristics, retaining much of the intrinsic traits through the passage of time and intrusion of modernity. While concrete mass has obliterated the old dog-race track and obscured the hills, the soul of the venue remains intact.

Many other Australian grounds have had their identities eroded by drop-in turfs. The WACA has long lost its intimidating bounce and pace, MCG has become slower, SCG sluggish. But not the Gabba, thanks chiefly to the father-son pair of Kevin Mitchell senior and junior, who nursed and nurtured the ground for close to four decades, before Mitchell junior retired in 2017.

The senior used to collect bottles on the

Satwik-Chirag lose, but on upward curve after long time away

SHIVANI NAIK
JANUARY 14

CHIRAG SHETTY is in the habit of keeping himself informed by reading up everything he can lay his hands on, when curiosity strikes. He carries the same thoroughness onto the badminton court. Except in the fast-paced world of doubles shuttle, he has a fraction of a second to parse through all the options clanking and colliding in his head, confusing his decision-making – when the opponent's ripping back the shuttle from across the net.

The coronavirus pandemic-forced time away from competition gave Shetty all the time to deal with this predicament. As the World No. 10 pairing with Satwiksairaj Rankireddy were forced to practice individually, Shetty would go about decluttering all the choices in his head. While the young Indian doubles team remains a work in progress, they would come up against the Daddies of such decision-making in Round 2 at the Thailand Yonex Super 1000. The 21-19, 21-17 loss, where Chirag's tentative game would resurface, can be filed away as a lesson delivered first-hand by the masters of this game, World No. 2 Indonesians Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan. The Indians

were level at 17-all in the first game and close in at 17-16 in the next, but lacked the composure and clarity in closing out, driving home the need for Shetty to continue on his path of sorting out his half of the game.

"When I was stuck in Mumbai and Satwik was at his place, I took the opportunity to train a lot with Mathias Boe (Olympic medalist from Denmark). He changed my perspective on how I anticipate strokes. I am in the habit of being ready for every possible stroke. But he stressed that I need to be ready for the most likely one," Shetty explains.

Anticipation is intuitive, and pretty much difficult to break down and teach. So Shetty is aware that he'll get better at it only by playing more and more. However, the high art of doubles badminton has practitioners around the world, pickled in that culture of pre-emption. Boe is helping Shetty unlock those aspects of his individual game.

While Satwik mixes brain and brawn effortlessly, Chirag is trying to learn the tricks of the trade – at times with a fellow doubles player, the now-retired Shlok Ramachandran, and at others from the big names of the sport.

Boe, his teammate in the Premier Badminton League one season, helped him bring the zing that top pairings from doubles powerhouses learn from sparring with many

Satwiksairaj (L) and Chirag lost to World No 2 Indonesians Ahsan and Setiawan. *Badminton Photo*

equally adept combinations. "When you hit across and know the partner's covering the return, that's just one dimension. But we get drawn into playing unnecessarily long rallies because we are still inexperienced. He's (Boe) helping me get into position anticipating a stroke that's most likely to be played and finish rallies quicker. I think I'm playing smarter, and hence calmer. But there's lots to learn of course," Shetty says.

Hong Kong pair withdraws

Hong Kong's Tse Ying Suet and Tang Chun Man gave a walkover to Germans Mark Lamsfuss and Isabel Herttrich in Round 2 of the Mixed Doubles at Thailand Open. In her Insta post, Tse Ying explained Hong Kong Institute of Sport advised the pairing to pull out, given a German coaching staff had tested positive at Bangkok and it was unsafe to play the pair, who were close contacts. She added though the Germans had tested negative several times, the "incubation period of 21 days" posed a risk. **ENS**

The Indians duo last played a tournament exactly a year back, having skipped the All England and then getting stuck in lockdown in separate cities. Satwik would then recover from his Covid infection, before the two reunited only a couple of months back in Hyderabad.

While Shetty would continue to pick Boe's brains on service and returns and catching the shuttle early, the two have been

ground for pocket money before joining the army. Then during a vacation in the 1970s, he just went to help his friend, a groundsman, at the Gabba. He did not rejoin the Army. The Mitchells looked after the ground like "their child", always keeping it green and pretty, battling and beating the elements. Brisbane can be like a furnace in summer. Winter is mild, but cyclones and thunderstorms are not too far any time of the year.

The sun, rain and benign winter encourage a luxuriant growth of couch grass – the secret behind hard, firm Gabba decks. In Queensland, it grows for almost 10 months, whereas in most other parts of the continent, it barely grows for six months. No wonder then that the Australian bowlers have enjoyed the bounce, pace and swing (when the clouds begin to drift in) it has offered for ages.

Cream rises to the top

Most of the legendary bowlers have sparkling records too. Dennis Lillee maintained an average of 20.16. Jeff Thomson 24.03, Glenn McGrath 21.75. Among their successors, Pat Cummins has picked his wickets at 15 runs apiece, striking every 36th ball. Mitchell Starc and Hazlewood have a much inferior, but still respectable, averages of 27.84 and 26.65 respectively. Spinners have relished the bounce. Shane Warne helms the bowling chart with 68 wickets at 20.30. Nathan Lyon has nabbed 35 at 29.37.

Good batsmen too have thrived, though only five have double hundreds on the honours' board. Donald Bradman averages 105, Greg Chappell 111 and Michael Clarke 103. But Brian Lara averages 22, Sachin Tendulkar 7.65, Virat Kohli 10. Clarke had a simple piece of advice to some of the New South Wales youngsters at the Gabba: "Play either with a horizontal bat or vertical bat. Nothing in between." The advice was passed onto him by arguably Queensland's most famous cricketer son: Matthew Hayden. If one man captures the essence of Gabba, in all its prowess to intimidate, it's Hayden.

But it has been a strange series, wherein adversities have only emboldened India. They have shown rare courage and grit to not only stand up to the Australians but also fling in the knockout punch when required. But it would not get more daunting than at the Gabbatoir. Survive the crucible, and India might well have achieved a rare slice of history.

LIVE ON SONY SPORTS NETWORK, SAM

part of individual up-skilling even when they got together in Hyderabad.

"There's lots of individual multi-sessions under coach Dwi (Kristiawan). It's just standing strokes, but he's helped with drives and quick drills and anticipation as well," he says of the Indonesian who took over after Flandy Limpele left.

The Indians – almost assured to qualify for Tokyo – have beaten the 'Daddies' before, mostly using pace to hustle them and pounce on their slightly slow reactions deep into a tournament, but could not bring on the same verve to blitz them in Bangkok, given the early season and how fresh every pairing is. Shetty-Reddy will need to do much more to leverage the age factor.

"The plan's to attack. They are a bit older, but surely the smartest pairing in the world," Shetty would say earlier. However, the plans to use their quicker reflexes, catch them fast and force them to lift, couldn't be executed.

"Have really missed the thrill of winning the last point of a match in this pandemic," Shetty would say. For someone who loves team dinners and the camaraderie, chomping on lunch alone in the room has been particularly rough. But the pandemic has taught him to confront precisely what makes him uncomfortable.

to having three kids and a wife within a year. The consequences of not succeeding were very real. If I didn't make a sale or if the manager was ticked off at me, or I got fired, you got no health insurance... There's other people, blood-related, that are counting on you. All the success I had with swimming gave me an inaccurate expectation of the world."

In 2014, he lost his job and was divorced within 24 hours.

Rebuilding life, then riots

For 10 months Keller lived in his car until his sister Kalyn, who had also represented the US at the 2004 Olympics in swimming, took him in. According to news organisation *SwimSwam*, he started to conduct swimming classes and clinics to make ends meet.

For the last three years though, he's been working for real estate company Hoff & Leigh. *SwimSwam* reported that Keller had resigned from the firm, along with their statement that read: "Hoff & Leigh supports the right of free speech and lawful protest. But we cannot condone actions that violate the rule of law."



Emerges as a Resounding Success!

UP CHIEF Minister Yogi Adityanath's unique initiative to encourage indigenous and specialized products and crafts exclusive to different districts of the state has emerged as a resounding success. Creating innumerable nano-engines to spur economic growth while protecting and promoting crafts and skills that were dying for want of support, ODOP has resulted in unprecedented growth in exports from the state. With a potential of creating 1.3 crore job opportunities by 2021, it has created lakhs of job opportunities in the past three years.

The unprecedented success and unfathomable potential of the programme have made it a key component in nurturing ambitions of the state to turn it into a trillion-dollar economy.

Soon to be Adopted Nationally

Success of the One District One Product (ODOP) idea has been so great that it has attracted attention of the union and other state governments. Taking a leaf from UP, the Government of India recently decided to prepare an institutional mechanism to promote the ODOP scheme at the national level. The Union Government wants to propagate it in the form of a movement in the country. In an open session, chaired by the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal, in August, Gujarat, MP, Manipur, Telangana and Jharkhand expressed interest in taking up the programme.

UP – The Initiator

The very unique 'One District One Product' scheme evolved on the fact that almost every district of Uttar Pradesh has one or other renowned traditional product. Before ODOP, the units producing traditional products, in spite of being the mainstay of MSME sector in the state, were more often than not failing units with a lot of problems as there was no policy to protect and promote them. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath identified the problem and launched the scheme with the aim of protecting and developing traditional and indigenous-to-UP crafts, skills and products while creating 25 lakh employment opportunities.

An elaborate exercise was undertaken to identify problems of every individual industry and ways to overcome challenges in making them viable and qualitatively better. One product or product group from each district was identified and Common



Facility Centres were set up in all 75 districts to address specific problems of these units and extend financial, technical and managerial support for their proliferation.

Marketing and Branding efforts

Apart from providing necessary technical assistance for quality upgradation of ODOP products, the MSME department of the UP government has also been looking after the branding and marketing efforts for these products. As a result, ODOP products like the Terracotta products of Gorakhpur, beautiful Moonj grass products of Sultanpur and Allahabad, Durries and carpets of Bhadohi, Mirzapur and Jaunpur, flutes of

Pilibhit, locks and hardware products of Aligarh, sports goods of Meerut and

ODOP products to be exhibited at Dilli Haat

A fair for showcasing the products made under the 'One District One Product (ODOP)' scheme of the Uttar Pradesh government will be organised at Dilli Haat from January 16 to 31.

A total of 118 stalls from across 61 districts of the state will be set up for the branding of products by artisans of Uttar Pradesh at the national and international levels. The ODOP products to be put up in the fair include leather products and marble from Agra, Glass products from Firozabad, brass and anklets bells from Etah, Moonj products of

wood craft of Saharanpur and Bijnora have scaled new heights in domestic as

Amethi, Terracotta products from Gorakhpur, Chikankari from Lucknow, and Musical instruments from Amroha.

The government will be providing free stalls, lodging arrangements, and fare to the craftsmen. ID cards are mandatory for every craftsman attending the fair.

The ODOP scheme by the UP government focuses on boosting the economy of the state by encouraging indigenous and specialised products of the various districts.

well as international markets. Many products like the Pilibhit flutes have recently found markets in the US and Europe. Anklet bells produced in Jalesar (Etah) have found markets in Africa, Middle East and East Asia. Other Products taken up under the scheme include utensils of Kanpur Dehat, wall-hangings of Ghazipur, wooden toys of Chitrakoot, wheat stalk artifacts of Bahraich, Mahoba's Gaura stone craft, Mainpuri's Tarkashi art products, Rampur's brocade and patchwork and tribal crafts of Lakhimpur Kheri. In a major milestone, the rugs and mats made by a self-help group (SHG) in Mirzapur are to be showcased in the 'Japan Carpet Fair' in January. These products have already received appreciation from across the globe.

Famous Designers Roped in for ODOP

Famous fashion designers such as Ritu Berry, Rina Dhaka, JJ Valaya and Manish Malhotra have been engaged with the ODOP scheme to give textile, handloom, dresses, carpets, Home décor, leather and other products a new look and shape. These designers are guiding the craftsmen and producers to match international quality.

Virtual Expo Brings in International Buyers

In order to devise ways to overcome the economic seize due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UP government recently organized an international 3-D virtual expo to help create virtual bazaar for ODOP products. The experiment with the help of FICCI has given rich dividends. Silk garment producers in Varanasi said that the virtual expo has boosted demand for their products by a whopping 70 to 75%. Overjoyed with the response, FICCI is now thinking of hosting it round the year.

ODOP to help make UP a Trillion Dollar Economy

The ODOP segment of the MSME sector has emerged as a key segment in the efforts targeted at making the state a trillion-dollar economy. There are traditional industrial hubs such as Banarasi silk sarees of Varanasi, carpets of Bhadohi, Chikan wears of Lucknow, tannery and leather goods of Kanpur, leather footwear of Agra as well as locks and hardware of Aligarh etc. The government has also taken initiative to get these products Geographical Identification (GI)

tagged. Many of these products have already got the GI tag. This new ODOP segment in the MSME sector is the most potent economic tool to ensure rapid progress in economic activities to take the UP economy to the one-trillion-dollar mark.

ADB to Give \$ 500 Million for ODOP

Even the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is so impressed with the scheme that it has promised to earmark \$500 million for it. ADB's assistance will be mainly in three clusters, including Varanasi where it will help weavers of silk saris and the sports goods industry in Meerut. The third cluster is yet to be finalised.

Apart from a record financial assistance, the ADB would also set up 20 entrepreneurship development centres in the state to groom local artisans and traders as potential entrepreneurs.

MoUs to Promote ODOP Products

The Uttar Pradesh government has signed five Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs), including one with e-commerce giant Amazon, to help artisans in selling their products selected under ODOP scheme. Besides Amazon, the state administration signed MoUs with Wipro GE Healthcare, Bombay Stock Exchange, National Stock Exchange and the Quality Council of India. Wipro GE Healthcare will set up a training centre to impart skill training programme to 450 personnel in the state. BSE and NSE will launch education programme for entrepreneurs engaged in micro, small and medium industries to make them aware of the procedures of listing on stock exchanges to raise funds for their units. It was a long-pending demand of the craftsmen.

ODOP Retail Chain

Special marketing drive for ODOP products of UP has led to the opening of sales outlets in major cities, including Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi. In the first phase, a showroom of ODOP products has been opened in Gujarat. Now the government plans to set up stalls in UP Bhawans in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. Apart from these outlets, the Lok Bhavan in Lucknow is set to showcase ODOP products in a special way.

Hopes Pinned on MSME for Big Economic Achievement



UTTAR PRADESH has pinned big hopes on the MSME sector in its efforts to boost economic activities in the state. It is the sector that has given outstanding performance when nothing else was moving. Currently, there are around 1 crore MSME units in Uttar Pradesh. However, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath realizes that this sector has the potential to generate large-scale employment opportunities in the shortest possible timeframe. Thus, to speed up unhindered establishment of MSME units in the state, the UP government has introduced a new MSME Act that simplifies the establishment process of MSMEs.

New Act

Easing the conditions for setting up new MSME units, the UP government notified UP MSME (Establishment and Operations) Act, 2020, in September. The Act provides for a single-window system for no objection certificates (NOCs) from 29 departments and power connection of up to 20 KW

within three days of filing an application.

"A person will have to make an application through a 'Declaration of Intent' to the District Level Nodal Agency (DLNA), which will have to issue an acknowledgment within 72 hours of receiving the application. On the basis of this acknowledgement, one will be able to establish the unit," the notification stated.

Navneet Sehgal, state's Additional Chief Secretary (MSME), said the DLNA will be headed by the district magistrate. "The application can be filed online through the 'Nivesh Mitra' portal, which is the official portal for the sector. The committee will immediately start verification of the submitted documents and licenses needed to start the industry will be issued within three days," he said.

The Act is applicable for new units or those seeking to expand or diversify, provided they increase their gross block only by 25%. The Act excludes units of tobacco products, gutka, pan

masala, alcohol, carbonated drinks, fire crackers, plastic bags of 40 microns or less or as banned by the government from time to time.

Rs 36,000 Crore Working Capital Infused to 11 Lakh MSMEs

Apart from facilitating the setting up of MSME units, the government has actively taken steps to ensure strengthening of the existing and new MSME units. In the lockdown and post-lockdown periods, the government has extended working capital loans to the tune of Rs 36,000 crore to almost 11 lakh MSME units in the state. The beneficiary MSMEs comprised about 465,000 existing and 745,000 new units across different industry segments. Bank finances totalling Rs 19,801 crore and Rs 16,562 crore, respectively, under various Central and State Government schemes has been extended to these units.

The Additional Chief Secretary, Navneet Sehgal claims that this capital infusion in the sector has created around 20 lakh fresh employment opportunities. "The State Government is targeting to provide institutional credit to 20 lakh MSMEs in the current financial year to generate 80 lakh employment opportunities," he adds.

It may be noted that in May, as soon as the Union Government announced an economic package of Rs 20 lakh crore for 'Self-reliant India Campaign', the UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath disbursed online loans worth Rs 2002.49 crore to 56,754 MSME units in the state. Thus, UP became the first state to disburse loans to such a large number of entrepreneurs during the lockdown period.

At the same time, the government facilitated loans worth Rs 15,000 crore to the MSME units under its flagship ODOP scheme over the past three years. The government is targeting to augment MSME exports in the next three years to reach Rs 3 lakh crore

from Rs 1.20 lakh crore in the FY 2019-20. To give impetus to the MSME exports, a new export promotion policy is also being prepared.

Highest Number of Jobs Under PMEGP

UP has created highest number of jobs even under the Prime Minister Employment Guarantee Programme (PMEGP). The state has created 14,616 jobs of the total 1.10 lakh jobs created between April and August across the country under this scheme. These employment opportunities were created in the MSME sector.

UP to Develop the First 'Toy City' in the Country

The toy-making craft of Jhansi district, included in the ODOP scheme, may soon get a boost as the government is planning to introduce a separate toy policy in the state besides planning to create the first 'toy city' of the country. The toy policy framework is under development as the draft policy has been shared with industrialists for their comments. It will soon be presented before the cabinet. It may be noted that no state in the country has such a policy.

The production of battery-operated electronic toys is quite low and inferior in quality due to poor technical and designing inputs. Import of raw material for plastic toys is also a cumbersome task. The government is planning to arrange design studio and testing lab to boost the industry. Toy industrial units being set up under the MSME Act provisions shall get land at concessional rates and other facilities.

The toy market size in India is approximately Rs 10,000 crore. Only 35 to 45% of this market operates under organized sector. Indigenous toys have a meagre share of approximately 12% while the rest 88% belongs mostly to imports from China. India's share in global toy market is less than 0.5%.

Noida to be the Biggest Industrial Hub in North India

While presiding over a meeting of high level Empowered Committee of Invest UP, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

said that Noida will be developed as the biggest hub in north India.

The state has strived to develop infrastructure in terms of power, road, communication, transport, besides maintaining strong law and order situation to achieve the dream of becoming one-trillion economy.

20,000-acre Land Bank for Industries

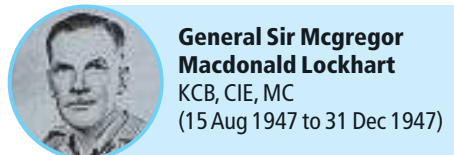
The Chief minister also said that UP has a ready land bank of 20,000 acre on which industries can be set up. He said the government is coming out with a comprehensive land policy, besides formulating new Pharma Policy and Data Policy. "Defence and aerospace, warehousing, data centres, electrical vehicles and pharma sector are some of the emerging investment centres in the state besides, the ambitious Defence Corridor project." All these sectors are likely to promote growth of MSMEs along with the larger entities.

Data Park at Greater Noida

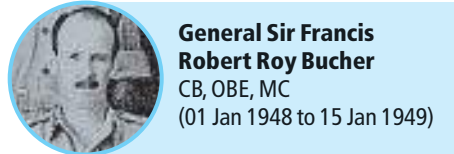
The Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recently laid the foundation stone for a data park being developed by Hiranandani Group subsidiary Yotta Infrastructure in Greater Noida. It is worth noting that the state government had approved the project only on October 24 last and a 20-acre plot had been allotted to the company immediately. The project is to cost approximately Rs 7,000 crore (approximately \$950 million). Speaking in the virtual ceremony for the ambitious data centre project Yogi Adityanath reiterated that Uttar Pradesh has emerged as an attractive destination for investors and businessmen. The centre will consist of six interconnected data centre buildings offering 30,000 racks capacity and 200MW of power. It is expected to generate thousands of job opportunities in IT sector. According to the company, the construction of the data centre park will commence in December and the first data centre building is expected to be operational before July 2022.



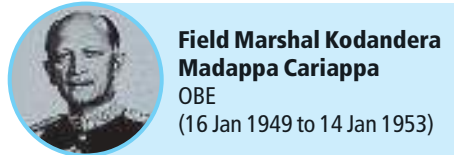
LEADING BY EXAMPLE



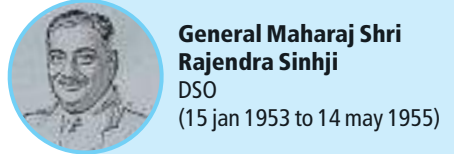
General Sir McGregor Macdonald Lockhart
KCB, CIE, MC
(15 Aug 1947 to 31 Dec 1947)



General Sir Francis Robert Roy Bucher
CB, OBE, MC
(01 Jan 1948 to 15 Jan 1949)



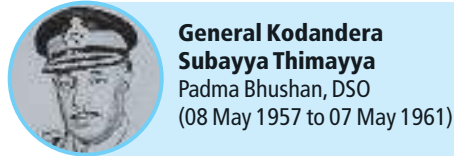
Field Marshal Kodandera Madappa Cariappa
OBE
(16 Jan 1949 to 14 Jan 1953)



General Maharaj Shri Rajendra Sinhji
DSO
(15 Jan 1953 to 14 May 1955)



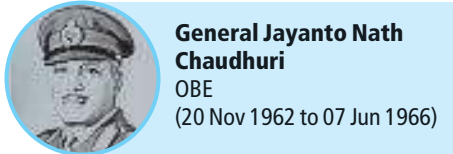
General Satyawant Mallana Srinagesh
(15 May 1955 to 07 May 1957)



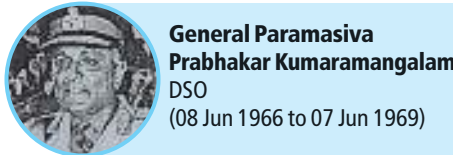
General Kodandera Subayya Thimayya
Padma Bhushan, DSO
(08 May 1957 to 07 May 1961)



General Pran Nath Thapar
(08 May 1961 to 19 Nov 1962)



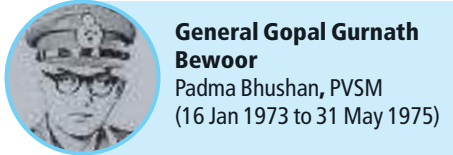
General Jayanto Nath Chaudhuri
OBE
(20 Nov 1962 to 07 Jun 1966)



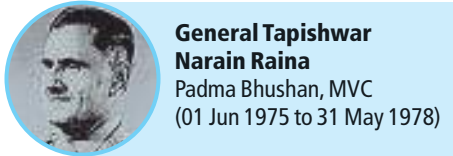
General Paramasiva Prabhakar Kumaramangalam
DSO
(08 Jun 1966 to 07 Jun 1969)



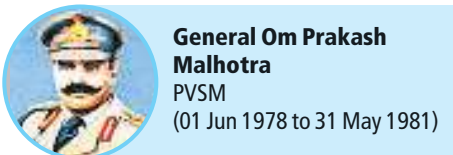
Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw, MC
(08 Jun 1969 to 15 Jan 1973)



General Gopal Gurnath Bewoor
Padma Bhushan, PVSM
(16 Jan 1973 to 31 May 1975)



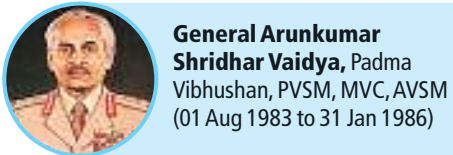
General Tapishwar Narain Raina
Padma Bhushan, MVC
(01 Jun 1975 to 31 May 1978)



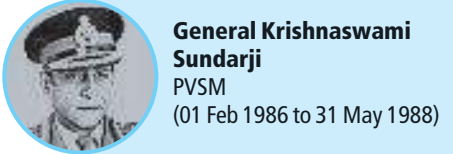
General Om Prakash Malhotra
PVSM
(01 Jun 1978 to 31 May 1981)



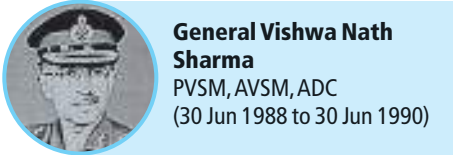
General Kotikalapudi Venkata Krishna Rao
PVSM
(01 Jun 1981 to 31 Jul 1983)



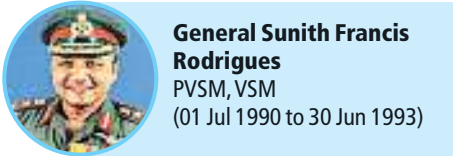
General Arunkumar Shridhar Vaidya, Padma Vibhushan, PVSM, MVC, AVSM
(01 Aug 1983 to 31 Jan 1986)



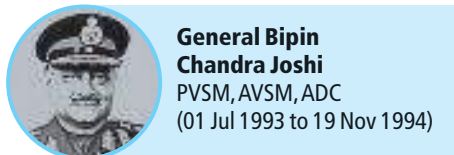
General Krishnaswami Sundarji
PVSM
(01 Feb 1986 to 31 May 1988)



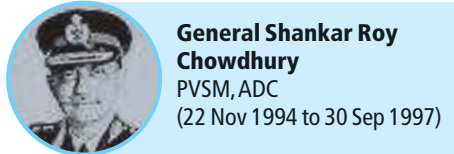
General Vishwa Nath Sharma
PVSM, AVSM, ADC
(30 Jun 1988 to 30 Jun 1990)



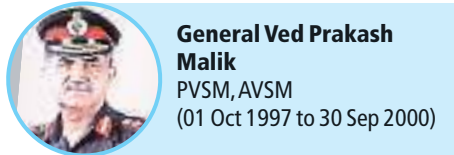
General Sunith Francis Rodrigues
PVSM, VSM
(01 Jul 1990 to 30 Jun 1993)



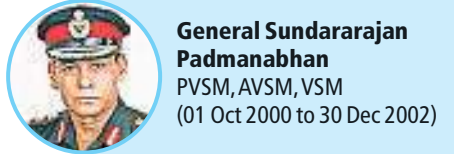
General Bipin Chandra Joshi
PVSM, AVSM, ADC
(01 Jul 1993 to 19 Nov 1994)



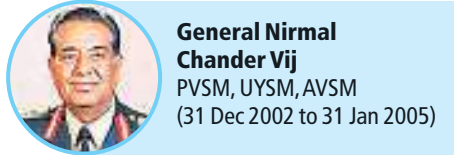
General Shankar Roy Chowdhury
PVSM, ADC
(22 Nov 1994 to 30 Sep 1997)



General Ved Prakash Malik
PVSM, AVSM
(01 Oct 1997 to 30 Sep 2000)



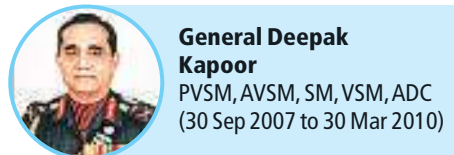
General Sundararajan Padmanabhan
PVSM, AVSM, VSM
(01 Oct 2000 to 30 Dec 2002)



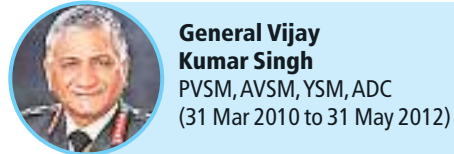
General Nirmal Chander Vij
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM
(31 Dec 2002 to 31 Jan 2005)



General Joginder Jaswant Singh
PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC
(01 Feb 2005 to 30 Sep 2007)



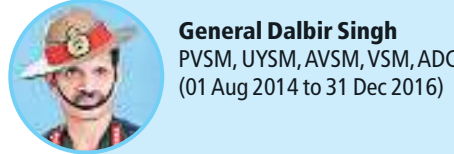
General Deepak Kapoor
PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC
(30 Sep 2007 to 30 Mar 2010)



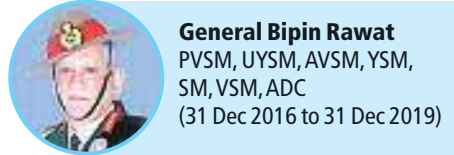
General Vijay Kumar Singh
PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC
(31 Mar 2010 to 31 May 2012)



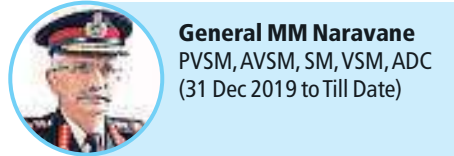
General Bikram Singh
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC
(01 June 2010 to 31 July 2014)



General Dalbir Singh
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC
(01 Aug 2014 to 31 Dec 2016)



General Bipin Rawat
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, ADC
(31 Dec 2016 to 31 Dec 2019)



General MM Naravane
PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC
(31 Dec 2019 to Till Date)

INDIAN ARMY: STRONG AND CAPABLE

THE Indian Army, the land component of the Indian Armed Forces, is one of the most capable and professional armies in the world. Tasked with defence of the homeland along the Northern, Western and Eastern borders, it is also engaged in counter-terrorist activities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the North East region of the country. The men and women in 'Olive Greens' have proven their worth against both external and internal challenges. The Indian Army has also been deployed in providing aid to civil authorities during natural disasters.

The year 2020 has been full of challenges for India and the Army. Covid-19 and China have been major threats for the global order and the major scene of contestation, cooperation and confrontation has shifted to Asia. India, faced with a revisionist state in the West and a revanchist one on its Northern and Eastern frontiers, is at the centre of the biggest clash of civilisations that is slow-burning its way to increased hostilities between democracies and an authoritarian leadership.

Unilateral and provocative actions by the Chinese to change the status quo by force, in more than one area on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), were responded to in a firm and non-escalatory way, ensuring the sanctity of our claims in Eastern Ladakh. Indian Army has maintained all protocols and Agreements between the two countries while the PLA escalated the situation by utilisation of unorthodox weapons and amassing large number of troops. The Indian Army with assistance from IAF mobilised troops including accretionary forces in a very short duration including heavy equipment like guns, tanks as also ammunition, rations and clothing. Our own engineers constructed roads, accommodation and bridges to assist troop deployment. In a major skirmish in Galwan, 20 brave Indian soldiers lost their lives while preventing PLA troops from ingressing into our territory. The Chinese also suffered significant casualties. Later on August 28-29, 2020, our troops in a precautionary deployment, pre-empted Chinese expansionist designs and occupied heights along southern bank of Pangong Tso. Braving the weather, own troops continue to be deployed on these heights. Advance Winter Stocking (AWS) and winter preparations for the enhanced strength has been completed and troops are well entrenched to counter any misadventure by Chinese forces.

With the 'Whole of Government' approach adopted against the terror ecosystem and the consistent efforts of the security forces, the security situation in Jammu & Kashmir has seen progressive improvement. On one hand, high level of alertness by troops along the Line of Control (LC) blunted Pakistan's endeavours to infiltrate terrorists into the Valley, at the same time, high tempo of kinetic operations in the hinterland ensured denial of operational space to ter-

rorist organisations. Ceasefire violations committed by Pakistan Army were given a befitting reply.

A number of attempts to smuggle arms, ammunition and contraband were also foiled along the LC. Internal security situation in North Eastern States has improved considerably with a large number of surrenders of insurgent cadres. Excellent understanding and coordination with Myanmar (OP SUNRISE) have made it difficult for Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs) to set up camps there. The Army and other security forces have played a stellar role in reducing the violence levels and forcing insurgents to abjure the path of violence.

The Indian Army facilitated a successful national response in the fight against COVID-19, by providing unprecedented assistance both in terms of men and material. A total of 113 hospitals were earmarked Nationwide for treatment of 12,000 patients from within the Army resources. Quarantine facilities have

been extended to approximately 4,000 expats, who returned to the country during lockdown. COVID-19 provided the Indian Army an opportunity to help reach out to Friendly Foreign Countries also, wherein, help was not only extended in terms of specialist manpower and medicines but also COVID management techniques.

2020 has also laid foundations for one of the most remarkable and momentous changes in the functioning of the Armed Forces. The era of integration of the Army, Air Force and Navy has begun and 2021 will take it forward.

A slew of weapons and platforms purchases have given an impetus to modernisation reforms within the Army which not only focuses on capability but also intent in the form of force restructuring, led by a major revamp in the Army headquarters. The Indian Army is now poised to become one of the most prolific contributors to the Indian Government's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

PNB salutes those who put their lives on the line for us



Keeps you ahead, always

Hamari Sena...
...Hamesha Aage



SALUTING INDIAN ARMY FOR THEIR COURAGE AND COMPASSION.

On Army Day 2021, Trimble and Allterra India extend a heartfelt thank you to the Indian Army for their selfless service and unflinching determination to do what's right for India, including embracing technology to become one of the most modern armies globally.



Bryn Fosburgh
Senior Vice President
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Rajan Aiyer
VP & MD
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Ajay Seth
Chairman
Allterra India



Pradeep Rathor
CEO & Managing Partner
Allterra India

Trimble is a trusted supplier of innovative, high-performance geospatial solutions for military customers worldwide. Trimble and its strategic partner Allterra India are proud to support the Indian Army in its acquisition of best-in-class technologies.

